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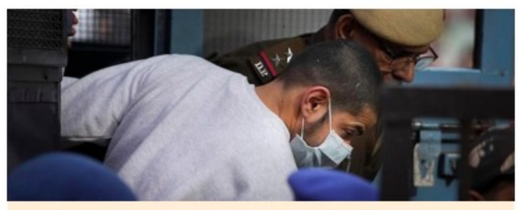

NCP LEADER'S MURDER

Anmol Bishnoi held, sent to NIA custody

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Hidden cost of polluted groundwater

India needs a real-time monitoring system

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INDIAN CHALLENGE ENDS

Wei stuns second seed Arjun in quarterfinals

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India's Russian oil cuts predate U.S. tariffs: data

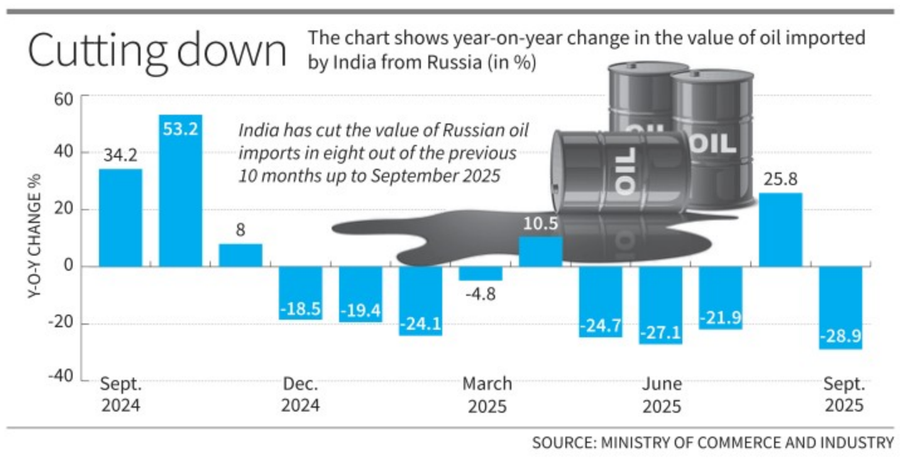
The 25% additional tariff by the U.S. came into effect on August 27 while government figures show a reduction in energy imports from Russia in the previous months compared with 2024

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India is implementing a larger strategy to reduce its dependence on oil imports from Russia, with the higher tariffs imposed by the U.S. coming at a time when India was already cutting its Russian oil imports, according to an analysis of official data. This has been confirmed by government officials.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of government trade data shows India's oil imports from Russia in September 2025 – the first full month during which the U.S.'s 50% tariffs on Indian imports were applicable – were 29% lower in value and 17% lower in volume than in September 2024.

However, the data show that this is part of a larger strategy rather than a reaction to the tariffs, half of which were imposed as a "penalty" for importing Russian oil.



SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Bigger strategy

The additional tariff came into effect on August 27. However, data show that India had cut the value of Russian oil imports in eight of the previous 10 months up to September 2025, compared with the corresponding period of 2024. In five of these months – February, May, June, July, and September – the cuts exceeded 20% each.

"India has known for a while now that its dependence on Russian oil imports had grown too high and so it was already working on a plan to reduce this," an official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Nitish to take oath as Bihar's CM for record 10th time today

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar arriving to attend the NDA meet in Patna. PTI

Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar was on Wednesday unanimously elected leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Legislature Party ahead of the formation of a new government under his leadership in Bihar on Thursday.

Mr. Kumar, who will take oath as Bihar Chief Minister for a record 10th time, was elected leader of the JD(U) Legislature Party during the meeting with the new MLAs held at his official residence in Patna.

Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha were elected leader and deputy leader of the BJP Legislature Party, respectively, during the meeting held at the party's State headquarters. Uttar Pradesh's Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who had been appointed the central observer for the election of the BJP Legislature Party leader in Bihar proposed the names and the MLAs supported the proposal.

With this, it is almost certain that Mr. Choudhary and Mr. Sinha will continue as Bihar's Deputy Chief Ministers, as in the previous government.

Later, at a meeting of the NDA held at the Central Hall in the Assembly premises, Mr. Nitish Kumar was unanimously elected its Legislature Party leader.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

SC quashes provisions of Tribunal Reforms Act

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday struck down provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021, a law designed to alter the tribunal system and give the Union government a dominant role in appointments and functioning.

"When Parliament designs or alters the tribunal system, it must do so in a manner consistent with the constitutional requirements of independence, impartiality, and effective adjudication. A law that undermines these foundational values, such as by enabling executive control over appointments, curtailing tenure arbitrarily, or weakening institutional autonomy strikes at the core of the constitutional arrangement," it said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Miscreants loot ₹7.11 crore from ATM cash van

BENGALURU
Miscreants posing as RBI officials intercepted a van carrying cash for ATMs, threatened the staff, and escaped with over ₹7.11 crore in cash. » PAGE 2

Govt. at half-way mark amid power tussle

BENGALURU
The Congress government in Karnataka headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete the first half of its term on Thursday amid suspense over the State Cabinet reshuffle and change of leadership. » PAGE 8

Delimitation of wards in GBA limits notified

BENGALURU
The government notified ward delimitation for the five newly established corporations under the GBA Act, 2024, marking a major administrative restructuring of urban governance. » PAGE 2

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Jalaj Saxena — a journeyman in pursuit of a long-cherished dream

The veteran cricketer, playing in his 21st successive First Class season, still eyes the India cap; the reliable all-rounder relishes his myriad roles: ever-dependable with the ball, solid with the bat and a sounding board for the youngsters in the dressing room

Amol Karhadkar

It is a delicate balance – nurturing others while chasing a dream that flickers but never fades. Jalaj handles it with the same equanimity he brings to his cricket

In an era when longevity in Indian domestic cricket is increasingly rare, Jalaj Saxena continues to stand out for his endurance as much as he does for his excellence. Into his 21st consecutive First Class season, the veteran all-rounder is inching closer to two remarkable landmarks: he is four wickets shy of 500 First Class wickets and within striking distance of becoming the fourth-highest wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy history.

Funnily enough, the man himself remains blissfully unaware of his proximity to these milestones.

"No idea what the latest number is," he replied after Maharashtra's innings win against Punjab in Chandigarh. He was told he was at 496.

It is not an act. The 38-year-old genuinely does not track his figures. "I know when I get on Instagram. That's it," he laughs.

For a cricketer whose earnings, relevance, and future have long depended on numbers, this indifference is unusual. But it is also what defines him.

Past the conventional 'prime' in cricket, he speaks with the composure of someone who has made peace with the uncertainty of sport. The calm, however, has not diminished his one unrelenting desire - the India cap that has eluded him despite two decades of dominance on the domestic circuit. "I still have that dream. I don't know how realistic it is, but without that motivation, I wouldn't be able to work the way I do."

The self-belief is intact. The self-doubt that occasionally surfaces is dealt with the same way he handles everything else – by focusing on what can be controlled. "Aiming is in my control. Being selected is not. So I keep aiming. That's enough."

Consistency needs effort

As cliched as that sounds, Jalaj walks the talk. Just a month shy of turning 38, he spent almost three days out on the field - bowling long spells or keeping Maharashtra in the game with a defiant effort down the batting order - against a formidable opponent.

Over the years, Jalaj has become a travelling professional, a role that has a clear demand: deliver or make way. That mantra has carried him from Madhya Pradesh to Kerala and now to Maharashtra.

"When you play professionally, there is always pressure to contribute. It actually helps your game. Pressure makes you improve. I enjoy it."

It shows. He is relishing his role as a reliable all-rounder, ever-dependable with the ball and solid with the bat. But, perhaps more importantly, he has become a sounding board for a relatively young dressing room.

"The first goal is to qualify, then win the Ranji Trophy. On paper, this is one of the best teams in the country."

The side's run hasn't been perfect – dropped catches cost Maharashtra dearly against Karnataka – but Jalaj refuses to read too much into it.

"We didn't have luck in this match... but I am hopeful that we will do well, qualify and compete strongly for the title."

Jalaj knows the ins and outs of the way Maharashtra operates, not just by virtue of being in the ecosystem for as long as he has. He is well acquainted with many of the players within the setup, including captain Ankeet Bawane. In fact, the selection committee chief, Akshay Darekar, was his roommate during his maiden India A tour to the West Indies in 2012.

Darekar played an important role in getting Jalaj introduced to the younger lot in the setup during the off-season. In the months to follow, his optimistic nature has helped break the ice with the unit.

Desire sans expectations

Hope has never been passive for Saxena. It is practical, grounded, and always accompanied by effort. Jalaj has played long enough to know the sport often gives more scars than celebrations.

"I try to control the controllables. I don't think about the rest. Cricket teaches you that. Every innings starts from zero. It keeps you grounded."

It also keeps him detached from expectations.

"If something isn't in my hands, I don't feel disappointed. I have learnt that from Under-14 itself. Selection, non-selection – these things are not in your control."

In recent years, Jalaj has embraced the responsibility of mentoring teammates – whether in Kerala earlier or in Maharashtra now. His satisfaction comes from seeing younger players succeed, even if it pushes him further away from the spotlight.

"If they perform well, the team benefits, and so do I. Ultimately, everyone doing well helps my dream too."

It is a delicate balance – nurturing others while chasing a dream that flickers but never fades. Jalaj handles it with the same equanimity he brings to his cricket.

As Indian cricket transitions into a new era shaped heavily by the Indian Premier League, Jalaj offers a pragmatic perspective, devoid of judgment.

"Changes have to come. In mentality, approach, everything. IPL has helped domestic cricket a lot. And changes were necessary."

Coming from someone who has spent a lifetime in the domestic grind, the honesty carries weight.

When Jalaj reaches the 500-wicket milestone – the Ranji Trophy will have a two-month break and resume in January 2026 – it will be a moment of celebration. But it is unlikely he will mark the achievement in any extraordinary way. He may not even realise the occasion when it arrives.

Numbers have never been the story for this seasoned spin-bowling all-rounder. The narrative has always been about endurance, adaptability, process, and the relentless power of a dream that has been as steady at 38 as it was at 14.

As Maharashtra goes through the ups and downs of another campaign with quiet ambition and a dressing room rich in youth, they also have, in Jalaj, a rare figure in Indian domestic cricket – a cricketer who has achieved almost everything the domestic circuit can offer, except the one thing he still wakes up chasing.

Still, he doesn't sound bitter. In fact, he revels in being awarded the Best Allrounder award in domestic cricket almost half a dozen times at the annual BCCI Awards function.

"Even though I haven't been able to play for India, the BCCI has acknowledged my contribution with awards like Best Cricketer, Best All-rounder," he says. "When you get recognition, when the authorities recognize your efforts, it gives a lot of happiness."

Whether that final chapter is written or not, his journey remains one of Indian cricket's finest testaments to perseverance – and to the quiet, unshowy dignity that has marked his entire career.

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Most wickets in Ranji

637	Rajinder Goel
530	S. Venkataraghavan
479	Sunil Joshi
442	R. Vinay Kumar
441	Narendra Hirwani
440	**Jalaj Saxena**
437	B.S. Chandrasekhar
418	V.V. Kumar
416	Shahbaz Nadeem
409	Pankaj Singh

THE GIST

- The narrative has always been about endurance, adaptability, process, and the relentless power of a dream that has been as steady at 38 as it was at 14
- When Jalaj reaches the 500-wicket milestone — the Ranji Trophy has gone into a two-month break and will resume in January 2026 — it will be a moment of celebration
- It is a delicate balance — nurturing others while chasing a dream that flickers but never fades. Jalaj handles it with the same equanimity he brings to his cricket

> When you play professionally, there is always pressure to contribute. It actually helps your game. Pressure makes you improve. I enjoy it... I try to control the controllables. I don't think about the rest. Cricket teaches you that. Every innings starts from zero. It keeps you grounded
>
> **JALAJ SAXENA**

Miscreants posing as RBI officials intercept ATM cash van and loot ₹7.11 crore

Cash from a private bank in J.P. Nagar was being transported when an SUV blocked the way; special teams formed to track down the accused; four people have been detained

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a daring daylight robbery, miscreants posing as RBI officials intercepted a van carrying cash for ATMs, threatened the staff, and escaped with over ₹7.11 crore in cash.

According to police, the company vehicle belonging to CMS Info System Ltd. was transporting cash from a private bank in J.P. Nagar when an SUV blocked its way. The accused allegedly claimed that they needed to 'verify documents' and forced the staff to cooperate.

The robbers then allegedly made the staff sit inside their car along with the cash boxes and drove towards Dairy Circle. After reaching the spot, the gang abandoned the staff and fled with the money.

Special teams have been formed to launch a massive manhunt to track down the accused. The police have examined the recordings of over 50 CCTV cameras and have alerted checkpoints across various routes.

The van that was transporting ATM cash in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The police said they have obtained vital information from the staff who were inside the cash van at the time of the incident. They suspect it to be an inside job as the driver of the van allegedly delayed informing the police and was giving a different version . It was also being probed why the armed security staff in the van did not use the weapons or resist.

"The police have put up nakabandi across the city. Teams have been formed and dispatched to different locations. While one team is monitoring the control room, another is analysing technical details," City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

Four staff detained

Meanwhile, the police have detained four staff of the company on suspicion. The suspects include Binod Kumar, the vehicle driver, Rajanna and Tammayya, the security personnel and Aftab, cash custodian, who was responsible for loading cash into ATMs.

The police suspect that it could be an inside job

All four have been questioned, and their statements have been recorded. According to officials, the interrogation has yielded several crucial leads, and arrests of the suspects involved in the robbery are expected soon.

According to the complaint by Vinod Chandrar, branch manager, around six accused posing as RBI officials intercepted the vehicle near Siddapura Lalbagh gate, bundled Aftab, and security guards into their vehicle and asked the driver to follow them.

The accused later stopped the vehicle on the flyover near Dairy Circle, took the cash box containing ₹7.11 crore at gunpoint and escaped along with the DVR installed in the van.

Ward delimitation for five city corporations notified

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Wednesday notified the ward delimitation for the five newly established city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, marking a major administrative restructuring of urban governance in the State capital.

The final notification revises the draft proposal, which suggested 368 wards, and raises the number to 369 by adding one more ward to the Bengaluru West City Corporation.

According to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) sources, the reservation process will begin soon and may take another 25 to 30 days to complete. Once finalised, citizens can finally expect civic polls after a delay of more than four years.

The government formed the Delimitation Commission on September 2, 2025, when the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike ceased to exist, paving the way for a new administrative structure under the GBA. Five new corporations- North, South, East, West, and Central- were subsequently established, and to operationalise this restructuring, ward boundaries had to be redrawn, prompting the creation of the commission.

Final ward distribution

North City Corporation	72 wards
South City Corporation	72 wards
West City Corporation	112 wards
East City Corporation	50 wards
Central City Corporation	63 wards

The final notification follows the government's acceptance of the recommendations submitted by the Wards Delimitation Commission chaired by M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the GBA. The commission submitted its draft on September 30, and objections were invited until October 15.

The draft attracted a total of 4,892 responses, with the West Corporation receiving the highest number, 2,965 suggestions. As part of the exercise, wards within each Assembly constituency were renumbered using the serpentine or boustrophedon system to ensure uniformity and clarity. Some ward names have been modified, and several boundary lines are realigned with identifiable roads to avoid ambiguity.

The commission submitted its final report to the government on November 10, 2025. After reviewing the recommendations, the government issued the final delimitation notification on Wednesday.

The delimitation rules mandated using the 2011 Census, updated with 2023 projections, with each ward representing about 20,000 people and a permissible variation of plus or minus 25%.

Wards were required to remain within a single Assembly constituency, maintain contiguity, and balance population and community interests. In hilly or forested areas, factors such as terrain, commuting needs, and public convenience had to be considered, while natural boundaries like roads and drains were to be used without disturbing existing community units.

Although the final ward list was scheduled to be published on November 1, the ongoing transition of the BBMP into new corporations delayed the other processes, leading to an 18-day delay.

'Address issues raised by civic workers'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chairman of the Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Commission P. Raghu directed Central Corporation officials to take immediate action on all service-related issues raised by civic workers after he held an interaction with the workers on Wednesday.

Mr. Raghu said civic workers and sanitation staff must be treated with humanity and respect, given the crucial role they play in maintaining the city's cleanliness.

During the interaction, where around 500 loaders, cleaners, auto-tipper drivers, and other civic workers participated, concerns were raised over the lack of toilet and drinking water facilities, delays in salary and PF payments, nonpayment of children's education fees, pending appointment orders, the need for validity certificates, gaps in health checkups, and delays in housing projects.

Following the interaction, Mr. Raghu instructed corporation officials to ensure that none of these issues remain unresolved.

GBA hires fresh graduates to flag risky trees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of rising deaths caused by tree-fall incidents in the city, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has hired eight students to identify "dangerous" trees across the city and initiate measures to clear them.

Seven forestry graduates and one BSc graduate have been selected to survey potentially hazardous trees.

According to Sudarshan G.K., Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), all trees along arterial and sub-arterial roads under the GBA's jurisdiction will be evaluated by the recruits, who will submit a report on the overall condition of the trees they evaluate.

"We have listed a few criteria that are critical for assessing a tree's health. The hired graduates will use this list when evaluating the overall condition of each tree," Mr. Sudarshan told *The Hindu*.

The criteria in the checklist include tree strength, hollowness, disease infestation, the condition of the trunk and branches, and the positioning of the tree (such as whether it is tilted or located in a potentially dangerous spot).

"Once we receive the report, we will visit the location and assess whether the tree can be treated by removing infested or problematic parts. If removal is absolutely necessary, then a clearance order will be issued," Mr. Sudarshan said.

He added that the hired graduates have been trained by conservationists and members of the city's tree expert committee on how to evaluate trees. The students will also receive an honorarium for their service.

The initiative follows a series of tree-fall incidents this year. GBA data shows that 1,222 trees were uprooted and 2,585 incidents of branch snapping were recorded between May and September this year. In 2024, the city saw 531 uprooted trees and 2,010 snapped branches between April and August.

East Bengaluru begins clearance of dry trees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Forest Division of the Bengaluru East City Corporation has begun a drive to clear dry tree branches and trees in hazardous condition along roadsides, medians, footpaths, and government lands within its jurisdiction.

Residents have been urged to report any dangerous trees or dry, broken branches spotted within the East City Corporation limits. Complaints can be registered through the helpline numbers 1533 or 94806 85706.

Citizens may also alert the Forest Division officials by sharing information via phone or WhatsApp, along with GPS-tagged photographs and precise location details, to help teams take timely action.

Mahadevapura Assembly constituency: Range Forest Officer Asha S. Kasareddy on 94806 85541. Krishnarajapuram Assembly constituency: Deputy Range Forest Officer Nagendra P. on 91135 30344.

Contractors violate recent NGT rules, endangering trees and public safety

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The contractors undertaking asphalting work in Bengaluru seem to have again violated the recent National Green Tribunal directions and have in many instances laid asphalt right up to the base of trees and plants, essentially choking them. This will leave no soil space for water to percolate and is said to make trees prone to falls, activists have pointed out.

Earlier this year, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered that a minimum of one metre of soil space (1 sq. m. on narrow roads) must be maintained around trees, serving as a buffer zone to allow them access to water.

The Hindu visited three different locations across southeast Bengaluru's Koramangala and Ejipura, where such violations were observed. Similar violations have been observed in several roads in other areas as well.

Contractors faced criticism from residents for using substandard materials, and several activists are also flagging NGT norm violations as well.

Soil space

Explaining the rationale behind maintaining one metre of open land around trees, former bureaucrat of environmentalist Y.N. Yellappa Reddy noted that a tree with a 4-foot girth and 15-foot diameter requires more than 100 litres of water each time it is watered. Without adequate soil space, a tree cannot meet its water requirements. "Trees will start dehydrating, and the rate of photosynthesis will drop, leading to the crossing of the threshold limit. After that, the tree will begin adapting to the limited water by shedding leaves, then branches, and eventually the trunk, ultimately leading to its death," Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu*. *The Hindu* earlier reported that 1,222 trees were uprooted during the monsoon this year.

The new corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) undertook asphalting works across the city due to deteriorating road infrastructure. Soon after work began, contractors faced criticism from residents for using substandard materials. Several activists are also flagging NGT norm violations as well.

City-based activist Dattatraya Devare blamed this very issue for the increase in tree falls and the deaths that have resulted from such incidents. "How many times should people approach the court, and how many PILs must we file to stop this? Do these people even respect the law?" he asked.

Vijay Nishanth, a tree conservationist, said the contractors undertaking such works lack awareness either about the need for soil space around trees or NGT directions. "I brought this to the notice of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during his Walk with Bengaluru in Lal Bagh, and they followed up with me. However, no action has been taken," he told *The Hindu*. "Even the Forest Minister has issued directives, but there seems to be little impact," he added.

Apathy

A junior officer from the forest wing of the GBA said, "Despite multiple attempts to educate them (contractors and engineers) about the need for soil space for plants, they have turned a deaf ear."

Sudarshan G.K., Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA, admitted that there have been multiple instances of roads being laid in violation of the rules and that they have received several complaints from residents.

"We will bring the issue to the notice of our higher officers and ensure that we find solutions quickly," Mr. Sudarshan told *The Hindu*.

However, such instructions are not new to contractors and engineers. In a letter dated June 19, 2025, accessed by *The Hindu*, Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner (Forest), issued strict directions to maintain 1 m of soil space around trees, citing the NGT order. Even before this, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre had issued the same directive.

Cubbon Park to host 11-day flower show from Nov. 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Horticulture will organise a flower show at Cubbon Park from November 27 to December 7.

The show, which is being attempted at this scale in the popular lung space, will be modelled on the annual Lalbagh Flower Show. The State Horticulture Department has allocated nearly ₹40 lakh for the 11-day show.

The show theme blends Children's Day and Karnataka Rajyotsava, shaping the designs of the floral installations as well as the cultural programmes. The exhibition will run from the Fountain circle near the Bandstand up to the Bal Bhavan Gate, one of Cubbon Park's busiest corridors. The event will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., with officials expecting the footfall to cross two lakh visitors. "Entry has been fixed at ₹30 for adults and ₹10 for children, while schoolchildren coming in uniform with valid ID cards will be getting free entry, which is meant to draw more children to the park and encourage early interest in horticulture. Parking arrangements have been strengthened to manage the expected footfall. Parking around the Central Library will be open on all days except Sundays. On weekends, visitors will be able to park at the KGD building and near the High Court," G. Kusuma, Deputy Director, Cubbon Park, Horticulture Department, told *The Hindu*.

The show theme blends Children's Day and Karnataka Rajyotsava, shaping the designs of the floral installations as well as the cultural programmes. FILE PHOTO

"This is the first edition being held for more than a week, and the response this year will determine whether the Cubbon Park Flower Show becomes an annual feature like the Lalbagh Flower Show. After this year's trials, we will understand what additions can be done to attract visitors," Ms. Kusuma added.

The displays will feature 50 varieties of plants and 50 varieties of flowering species. More than 100 stalls will be set up, including nurseries, gardening accessory shops, craft stalls, and food counters.

Alongside the floral displays, the event will host a series of cultural programmes, including classical music concerts and folk performances.

Visitors clash outside high security zone of Vidhana Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A violent clash involving a group of visitors from a neighbouring State erupted on the footpath opposite Vidhana Soudha on Saturday evening, triggering panic among the public and raising questions over security lapse in one of the city's high security zones.

According to police, the group had reportedly come to see the Vidhana Soudha building when a heated argument broke out among them, quickly escalating into a physical fight. The police suspected that the clash stemmed from a personal dispute.

A case has been taken up and further legal action has been initiated

A video of the incident soon went viral on social media. The police personnel reached the spot within seconds, dispersed the group using mild caning, and brought the situation under control, a senior officer said.

The Vidhana Soudha Police Station has registered a *suo motu* case, and efforts were under way to identify and arrest all those involved.

Many people, including former City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao, questioned the city police's security arrangement while condemning such incident .

Reacting to the incident, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Division, Akshay M. Hakay, said that the beat staff deployed there acted promptly, dispersed the people, and ensured order was maintained.

A case has been taken up and further legal action has been initiated.

Attribution science: the tricky task of linking disasters to emitters

The earth's surface is likely to warm by over 2 °C over preindustrial times by 2100, bringing about potentially life-altering changes to ecosystems and living conditions; the evolving robustness of climate attribution will play a crucial part in how governments, banks, courts, and the people respond

Divya Gandhi

People salvage items from a house on the brink of becoming part of the ocean in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, in the aftermath of Cyclone Montha, on October 29, 2025. Global warming is making storms more intense by, among other things, allowing the air to hold more moisture. K.R. DEEPAK

On November 12, Delhi's air became distinctly unbreathable. A thick blanket of smog enveloped the capital, which recorded an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of over 400, and the pollution was categorised as "severe." On November 9, Delhiites, aware of the possible respiratory ailments this relapsing crisis could lead to, protested at India Gate. Many were detained.

Meanwhile, in April, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, released a three-decade long study that established that rainwater, in several parts of the country, was becoming increasingly "acidic."

In August, there was another environmental disaster, this time in the Himalayas: flash floods inundated Uttarkashi, washing away people and buildings, reportedly caused by a glacial lake burst. While it was small in scale, it was reminiscent of the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy, when over 6,000 people died after an avalanche ruptured the banks of the Chorabari Lake, causing it to burst and release 262 million litres of water within minutes. This was the worst environmental disaster in the country after the 2006 tsunami.

Real world v. models

But can we authoritatively attribute these environmental catastrophes to human-induced climate change? Put another way, while the irrefutable fact is the earth has warmed by more than 1° C since pre-industrial times, thanks to human-generated greenhouse gases and there are local events that result in local environmental disasters as well, how sure we can we be that climate change made a cloudburst or a cyclone more likely?

This is where climate attribution science comes in. This field is concerned with estimating how the probability of events or their intensity, duration or frequency are altered by climate change.

"Models try to create a world where climate change didn't happen and look at the real world where events happened," earth system scientist Raghu Murtugudde explained. "Models are imperfect, and depending on which of these changes you try to estimate, you can get different answers. An event may have occurred naturally but attribution may say its intensity was made stronger or that its probability was increased, and so on," he told *The Hindu*.

In general the attribution of heat waves is more accurate than the attribution of extreme rain events, J. Srinivasan, honorary professor at the Divecha Centre for Climate Change, said.

"When a major heat wave strikes Europe or Asia, scientists try to estimate the contribution of the increase in carbon dioxide to that particular heat wave. Their attribution will be accurate if the model is good at simulating the past heat waves in that region," Prof. Srinivasan said.

For instance, acid rain in Visakhapatnam has been associated with fossil fuel emissions from a power plant and a shipping yard, among other activities in the vicinity. Delhi's extreme pollution has been linked to the city's many vehicles spewing carbon dioxide and, seasonally, to crop residue burning in neighbouring States (which release organic aerosols), the unchecked use of firecrackers during Diwali, and particular wind patterns.

Identifying point sources

Earlier this year, researchers at Utah State University reported studying the 2013 Kedarnath floods and finding through attribution analysis that northern India has received increasingly larger amounts of rain in June since the late 1980s due to more greenhouse gases and aerosols in the atmosphere. There are two forms of emission attribution, Amit Garg, professor at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, who specialises in energy, climate change, and sustainable development issues, told *The Hindu*.

"Point sources of emissions mean large sources at one location, such as power plants, steel plants and cement plants, while non-point are dispersed sources such as cars and rice fields."

A 2007 study published in *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* investigated the chemical composition of precipitation over Jharkhand's Dhanbad, the "coal city of India." The rain water samples were found to have an average pH of 5.37, "indicating acidic to alkaline nature of rainwater." This is how researchers tracked down the "point source" of emissions responsible.

Coal mining in Jharia, Dhanbad, emits methane, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and "dust particles in the atmosphere ... [that] act as centres for catalysing chemical reactions, leading to the formation of secondary pollutants such as smog and acid rain," according to a 2025 paper in *International Journal of Scientific Research in Science and Technology*.

A nascent science

This said, climate attribution science is still firming up.

> When a heat wave strikes Europe or Asia, scientists try to estimate the contribution of carbon dioxide. Their attribution will be accurate if the model is good at simulating past heat waves in the region
>
> **J. SRINIVASAN**
> HONORARY PROFESSOR AT THE DIVECHA CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

For instance, chemical transport modelling can now track plumes and satellites can monitor emissions, and "the increase in model resolution has improved the accuracy of attribution," says Prof. Srinivasan. "If the number of heat waves or floods increases in the simulation with increasing carbon dioxide, we can use statistics to estimate the probability that the increase in floods or heat waves was caused by an increase in carbon dioxide."

Satellite observations are showing that cyclones are intensifying rapidly on account of high sea-surface temperatures, he added: "With global warming, the water vapour in the atmosphere increases. Weather forecasts from IMD have become more accurate and so deaths from cyclones have reduced dramatically."

But when there isn't enough data, "researchers run models for the planet's climate without increasing greenhouse gas emissions and other anthropogenic forcings. Where there is sufficient data, they use trends in the data to compare conditions today with a period from the past in which human effects on the planet were relatively minimal," Prof. Murtugudde wrote in *The Hindu* in May 2024.

One climate attribution model that needs to be better fine tuned is per-capita entitlements, according to Prof. Garg: "Climate change attribution would require per-capita entitlements for greenhouse-gas emissions and equivalent climate risk coverage across populations in all countries and generations for equity and justice."

Attribution also could, in theory, translate into a way to fix responsibility, especially for rich and developed countries: as Prof. Garg said, "They should ideally commit to pay for the losses imposed on developing countries and the poor all over the world due to unbridled GHG emissions growth since 1850s."

India's contribution to the global increase in cumulative CO2 emissions (since 1850) is less than 6%, Prof. Srinivasan said.

"So what we do in the next 10 years is not as relevant as what we plan to do during the next 50 years. India has made good progress in solar and wind power plants. In the case of batteries, the availability of materials may be a bottleneck."

Going to court

One paper published in *Nature* in April 2025 went a step further and asked: "Will it ever be possible to sue anyone for damaging the climate?" Because, the paper said, "the scientific and legal implications of an 'end-to-end' attribution that links fossil fuel producers to specific damages from warming" are now available.

Using emissions data from major fossil fuel companies, and advances in empirical climate economics, the authors described "the trillions in economic losses attributable to the extreme heat caused by emissions from individual companies." If extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and extreme heat that upend lives "could be linked to climate change, the logic goes, injured parties could seek monetary or injunctive relief through courts."

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Bony fish, brittle stars (shown), and shark teeth seem to have evolved overlapping plates to meet similar protection and flexibility needs. HANS HILLEWAERT (CC BY-SA)

New atlas reveals that tiled bodies are common across earth life

Vasudevan Mukunth

Biologists and designers have long been fascinated by repeating patterns in nature, from spirals in shells to honeycombs in bees' nests. However, they have paid the most attention to patterns called 'cellular foams' seen in bone or wood, where thin walls enclose many small chambers. These structures are strong and light and usually quite rigid.

This said, many organisms build their bodies from solid pieces separated by softer joints, like a natural suit of tiles, such that these tilings can shift and often repair themselves piece by piece – yet researchers have studied them in only a few well-known cases, including fish scales and reptile armor.

But if a new study, published in *PNAS Nexus* by researchers in Germany, is to be believed, the prevalence of tilings in nature is surprisingly more widespread.

The researchers defined biological tiling as a repeated arrangement of solid tiles separated by a joint material, then built a database around this idea. They assessed more than 120 examples from across the tree of life from published research papers, images, and expert inputs, then shortlisted 100 instances that fit their definition. For each example, they noted down about 70 parameters – including what the tiles and joints were made of, the shape of the tiles, how the tiles touched or overlapped, their size and packing density, and the overall pattern.

To their pleasant surprise, the researchers found that tiling architectures were more common than expected. The examples spanned viruses, plants, arthropods, molluscs, and deuterostomes

While the protostomes often combined sugar and protein, deuterostomes used minerals and protein, and plants chose sugars plus polymers such as lignin

(such as echinoderms and vertebrates). Their tiles spanned a wide range in size, from nanometre-scale virus capsids to turtle shell plates tens of centimetres across.

The analyses revealed strong preferences for certain materials. While the protostomes often combined sugar and protein, deuterostomes used minerals and protein, and plants went for sugars plus other polymers such as lignin. The overlapping tiles of the sort familiar from fish and reptile scales turned out to be especially characteristic of deuterostomes.

Plant tilings were also found to cluster tightly because they shared sugar-based tiles and lignin joints whereas arthropod tilings were more spread out. The researchers also found that some seemingly unrelated structures were actually quite similar on a deeper level. In particular the overlapping plates of bony fish, brittle stars, and shark teeth appeared to be similar solutions these disparate life forms had evolved to solve similar mechanical problems, including protection and flexibility.

The catalogue thus exposed likely evolutionary constraints but also new open questions. For instance, why do tiles in such different organisms tend to share a similar upper size limit? And how do material choices control which patterns are possible? According to the paper, there are also other gaps that prior research hasn't covered fully: joint materials are poorly described and there could be many undiscovered nanoscale tilings once imaging tools catch up.

The researchers also said their database and a website they set up together form a "morphospace" that designers, engineers, and architects could use as a library of natural design ideas. The website is accessible here: https://tessellated-materials.mpikg.mpg.de/

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THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Extracting from the earth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
Miners crush ore into powder, mix it with water and special oils, then blow air through it to make bubbles that cling to valuable mineral grains and lift them into a frothy layer. What is this bubbly separation method called in mineral processing?

QUESTION 2
Certain resins or minerals in a container can grab dissolved metal ions from an acidic solution while letting the rest flow through, then release the metals when washed with a second solution. What is this selective swapping of ions between liquid and solid phases called?

QUESTION 3
In some furnaces, metal oxides are mixed with carbon sources like coke and heated to a higher temperature so oxygen and carbon together form carbon monoxide, leaving behind molten metal. What is this carbon-based high-temperature extraction method called in metallurgy?

QUESTION 4
For some tricky metals, miners opt for electrorefining. They dissolve the metals' ores in hot, electrically conductive liquids made of a particular compound rather than water, then pass an electric current through to separate elements. What is this liquid medium made of?

QUESTION 5
When two or more solids are mixed in certain proportions, their mixture can melt at a lower temperature than any one of them alone, forming low-melting alloys or solders. What name do miners give to such unusual mixtures (as well as to their composition point)?

Answers to November 18 quiz:
1. Signal sent to telephone upon lifting receiver – **Ans: Dial tone**
2. System of tones to recognise distinct key presses – **Ans: DTMF**
3. Cables on ocean floor carrying light signals – **Ans: Fibre-optic cables**
4. Ability of two people to talk at once on phone lines – **Ans: Full-duplex speech**
5. Text messaging service limited to 160 characters – **Ans: SMS**

Visual: *United States v. AT&T*
First contact: Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | K.N. Viswanathan | Karan Hudda | Sanjana Veerabhadra

Visual: Name the mineral being mined here. The pit has a characteristic funnel shape, nearly circular spread, and significant depth. This mine is located in the Sakha Republic, renowned for its extraction of this mineral. STEPANOVAS (CC BY-SA)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Robotic technology to curb illegal water connections and water leakage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday inaugurated the newly formed Blue Force and the Robotic Technology Deployment Programme designed by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to detect illegal connections and water leakage.

Lauding the water board for adopting advanced robotic technology to detect illegal water connections, identify contamination, and ensure the supply of clean water, Mr. Shivakumar said this initiative would serve as a model for the entire country.

He directed officials to take strict action against anyone who has obtained unauthorised water connections irrespective of whether they are rich, poor, or business owners.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the inauguration of the Blue Force and the Robotic Technology Deployment Programme in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Shivakumar said, "The BWSSB must detect and rectify contamination quickly. Bengaluru residents should not have to depend on water cans."

Calling the initiative first-of-its-kind in India, he highlighted that robotic technology enables quick detection of leakage sources without excessive road digging. The BWSSB demonstrated how the robotic AI system detects leakage inside pipelines and immediately sends the information to the BWSSB dashboard, enabling rapid action. BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said, "Our goal is to provide clean drinking water. We had to dig roads in multiple places earlier to trace contamination, and this technology eliminates that problem. The robotic system will scan pipelines, locate the exact issue, and roads will be dug only where repairs are needed. Issues can be resolved within 24 hours."

He added that complaint resolution would become significantly faster and that illegal connections have been causing huge losses to the board. "This initiative aims to reduce Bengaluru's 28% water loss caused by leakage and illegal connections," he said.

Mr. Manohar further stated that 16 Blue Force units—one in each division, with three members per team—will begin operations this week.

GBA chief orders penalties for illegal road-cutting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday directed officials of all corporations to impose fines and take disciplinary action against individuals and agencies found cutting roads illegally within its limits.

During a meeting, Mr. Rao said that applications received through the official software must be scrutinised carefully and permissions issued only through the single system as per rules. Any unauthorised road-cutting, he said, must be penalised and the damage stretches restored by the offenders themselves.

Reviewing infrastructure projects, he said white-topping works, taken up in 17 packages covering 140 roads over 220.68 km, must be accelerated. Of these, work on 39 roads (79.08 km) has been completed, while 101 roads (141.59 km) are in progress. He instructed officials to coordinate with various departments and begin work on stretches where work has yet to commence.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Unauthorised forex trading platforms on RBI's 'alert list'

95 The Reserve Bank of India added seven new names to its 'alert list' of unauthorised forex trading platforms, taking the total number to 95. The alert list contains names of entities which are not authorised to deal in forex under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. PTI

The fine imposed on Cloudflare by Tokyo court over piracy

3.2 In $ million. Tokyo's district court on Wednesday ordered Cloudflare to pay $3.2 million to major Japanese publishers after the U.S. firm was accused of hosting servers for manga piracy sites. Four major publishing firms accused Cloudflare of copyright infringement. AFP

Risk of developing arthritis from exposure to PM2.5

12-18 In per cent. As New Delhi enters its winter phase with thickening smog, physicians are sounding the alarm on a dual threat. A 2025 study found that long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) increases the risk of developing arthritis by 12-18%. PTI

The funds required for recovery operations in Afghanistan

128.8 In $ million. A UN-led assessment says Afghanistan requires $128.8 million to restore housing, schools and key services in its quake-hit provinces, warning that reconstruction faces "significant shortfalls" as donor support falls sharply. REUTERS

Projects approved by U.P. govt. to strengthen State's canal system

95 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved 95 canal projects aimed at enhancing the irrigation network's capacity and ensuring an uninterrupted water supply. Once completed, the projects will directly benefit nearly 9 lakh farmers. PTI

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The threat of digital tradecraft in terrorism

A car explosion near Delhi's Red Fort on November 10, killing at least 15 people and injuring over 30, has revealed the use of advanced digital tradecraft in terrorist attacks. This is a sobering reminder that the next frontier in counter-terrorism is not just on the physical terrain, but also in encrypted, and deeply private digital spaces

EXPLAINER

Kripa Nautiyal

The story so far:

The unfolding investigation into the recent car explosion near Delhi's Red Fort has exposed a chilling dimension – modern terror modules are no longer merely exploiting ideological or logistical networks, they are also leveraging advanced digital tradecraft to plan and coordinate such attacks. While law enforcement agencies continue to verify all leads, emerging revelations from the probe reify well-established academic research on how violent actors exploit encrypted platforms, decentralised networks, and spy-style communication to evade surveillance.

What happened?

On November 10, a car exploded near Gate No. 1 of the Red Fort Metro Station. The blast killed at least 15 people, and over 30 others were injured, making it one of the deadliest terror incidents in Delhi in recent memory. Indian authorities moved quickly to treat the incident as a terrorist attack, rather than a mere accident, and handed over the investigation to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under counter-terrorism laws.

Central to the probe are three doctors allegedly connected to the terror module: Dr. Umar Un Nabi, Dr. Muzammil Ganaie, and Dr. Shaheen Shahid, all linked to the Al Falah University in Faridabad. According to investigators, these individuals were deeply involved in the operational planning of the attack.

Remains of the debris: The Delhi police cordons off the blast site in New Delhi on November 11. ANI

What were the major findings?

So far, some of the more alarming aspects uncovered include:

Encrypted communication: The trio is alleged to have communicated via the Swiss messaging app Threema, a platform known for its high privacy design. Threema does not require a phone number or email to register; instead, it assigns users a random user ID unlinked to any personal identifier. Investigators suspect that the three accused may have established their own private Threema server, creating a closed, isolated network through which they shared maps, layouts, documents, and instructions. The server may have been hosted either within India or abroad (investigations are ongoing as to its origin). Threema's architecture is particularly useful to evade detection because it offers end-to-end encryption, no storage of metadata, and allows message deletion from both ends. These features make it extremely difficult for digital forensics teams to reconstruct full communication chains.

Sharing information using 'dead-drop emails': In what is being described as a classic "spy-style" technique, the suspects apparently used a shared email account (accessible to all module members) to communicate via unsent drafts. Instead of sending messages, they would save drafts; another member would log in, read or update them, and delete them – leaving no outgoing or incoming record on conventional mail logs. This method, sometimes referred to as a "dead drop," is particularly insidious because it generates almost no digital footprint.

Reconnaissance and ammunition stockpiling: As per interrogations and forensic data, the accused conducted multiple recce missions in Delhi before the attack. Investigators allege that ammonium nitrate, a powerful industrial explosive, was stockpiled, possibly via a red EcoSport vehicle that has now been seized. The use of a familiar vehicle, rather than something more suspicious, may have helped the module remain under the radar during logistics buildup.

Operational discipline and external linkages: Sources suggest that Dr. Umar, who was reportedly the driver of the car that caused the blast, "switched off his phones" and cut digital ties after the arrest of his associates, a sophisticated tactic to limit exposure. Moreover, though investigations are ongoing, some sources suggest that the attack has links with the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) or was following a JeM-inspired module. The layered communication architecture – encrypted apps, dead-drop emails – coupled with infrequent but deliberate physical recces, suggests a cell that counts operational security among its highest priorities.

What about academic scholarship?

The tactics reportedly used in this attack directly align with patterns documented in counter-terrorism scholarship. Researchers have long warned that extremist actors are increasingly using end-to-end encrypted (E2EE) tools to coordinate, share files, and plan in relative anonymity.

Apps like Threema, which minimise or eliminate metadata retention, make it significantly harder for surveillance agencies to reconstruct communication graphs. Moreover, by running a private server, the threat actor effectively bypasses centralised infrastructure and associated law-enforcement touchpoints. The use of unsent email drafts is characteristic of old-school spycraft adapted to the digital age. This method leaves no obvious transmission record, thereby thwarting standard surveillance or legal intercepts.

The blending of encrypted apps, anti-trace techniques (like VPNs), and physical tradecraft (recce, minimal digital footprint) suggests a multi-domain approach to operational security – exactly what academic counter-terrorism analysts have been warning about for years.

What are the implications?

As more terror modules adopt privacy-preserving technologies, traditional surveillance such as phone tapping, metadata collection, and email intercepts have become less effective. This should force law enforcement agencies to rethink investigative architectures.

Threema is reportedly banned in India (under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000), yet the suspects seem to have continued using it via VPNs and foreign proxies. This suggests that bans alone may not stem the misuse of such apps, especially by sophisticated operators. Investigators need advanced capabilities such as being able to track private servers, reverse engineer encrypted networks, and apply memory forensics to trace such modules. Standard device seizures may not be sufficient without specialised technical expertise.

Moreover, if a link to external handlers (such as the JeM) is proved to be true, this attack may be part of a wider network. The level of planning and security discipline shown suggests not a lone cell, but a well-trained, possibly transnational, group.

What are some policy solutions?

There are multiple policy and strategic solutions to strengthen counter-terrorism capabilities and posture. First, is to build a dedicated digital forensics teams. There is a necessity to establish and expand teams skilled in encrypted-platform analysis, server forensics, and memory dumping to recover ephemeral data. The government should invest in units that specifically monitor misuse of E2EE platforms, anonymising services, and VPN exit nodes for potential terror tradecraft.

Secondly, self-hosted communication infrastructure needs to be regulated. The state needs to craft regulatory frameworks mandating private servers hosting communication platforms to comply with lawful access obligations, while balancing privacy rights. Cooperation with technology providers needs to be encouraged in order to enable lawful interception under strictly controlled, judicially-supervised processes.

Third, legal frameworks need to be enhanced. For example, counter-terrorism laws need to be updated so that it explicitly addresses threats posed by encrypted, decentralised communication. Introduce or refine digital dead-drop detection mechanisms in investigations. Law enforcement should be trained to look for shared accounts, draft-only mailboxes, and similar tradecraft.

Fourth, community and institutional engagement needs to be prioritised. The fact that the suspects were reportedly doctors from a university is deeply concerning; such institutions need support to detect radicalisation early. Counter-radicalisation programs tailored to highly educated recruits may be deployed. Modules operating in professional spaces (doctors, academics) are often less visible, but may wield more technical or ideological sophistication.

And finally, international collaboration needs to be strengthened. Given the possible transnational nature (encrypted apps, private servers, cross-border funding) of the attack, the state should deepen cooperation with foreign intelligence and law enforcement agencies. It should also encourage tech diplomacy, and engage with countries where encrypted-messaging apps like Threema are based to explore lawful but privacy-respecting access to self-hosted infrastructure linked to terror cases. There should also be public awareness about how modern terror cells operate.

What next?

The Red Fort blast investigation illustrates how modern terrorist modules are evolving rapidly. They no longer rely solely on brute force or mass propaganda – they are integrating advanced digital tradecraft with traditional radicalisation and operational planning.

These developments resonate strongly with academic insights into extremist behaviour in the digital age. As violent actors become more technically adept, states too must adapt – not just by strengthening brute-force capacity, but by cultivating sophisticated, multidisciplinary intelligence, cyber-forensics, and legal tools.

For India – and democracies globally – this case is a sobering reminder that the next frontier in counter-terrorism is not just on the physical terrain, but also in encrypted, decentralised, and deeply private digital spaces. If we are to safeguard our cities and societies, we must meet this threat not only on the streets and borders, but also on servers and in code.

The author is a retired Additional Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.

THE GIST

- Central to the probe are three doctors allegedly connected to the terror module: Dr. Umar Un Nabi, Dr. Muzammil Ganaie, and Dr. Shaheen Shahid, all linked to the Al Falah University in Faridabad.
- The trio is alleged to have communicated via the Swiss messaging app Threema, a platform known for its high privacy design. Threema does not require a phone number or email to register; instead, it assigns users a random user ID unlinked to any personal identifier.
- The Red Fort blast investigation illustrates how modern terrorist modules are evolving rapidly. They no longer rely solely on brute force or mass propaganda — they are integrating advanced digital tradecraft with traditional radicalisation and operational planning.

‘Software Technology Parks of India can kick-start AI revolution’

Artificial intelligence could offer people economic and social empowerment: Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, MeitY

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Just as how India’s IT companies became key providers of software products across the world, can the country now also become the artificial intelligence (AI) application use case capital of the world?, asked Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), here on Wednesday.

Minister for IT and BT Priyank Kharge and others at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT

Software growth
The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has been driving the software growth story of India and the very organisation should be able to kick-start the AI revolution in India, he said, while speaking at a pre-event (of India AI Impact Summit scheduled in February 2026) meeting on the sidelines of the Bengaluru Tech Summit.

Whether in the United States, Europe, or in the Middle East, more and more investments are happening in building high-end data centers powered by renewable energy with high-end AI compute that can help companies which are training AI models or building AI applications around those AI factories, he observed.

“The STPI has 65 centres across the country, can they be leveraged to build the AI factories for tomorrow and can we think of India as an AI garage of the world?” he pointed a question to Arvind Kumar, the Director General, STPI, who was also speaking at the event. According to Mr. Singh, impact of AI on people primarily relates to how artificial intelligence will impact jobs, how it will impact employment, how it will lead to a need for reskilling and upskilling our tech workforce, our developers and coders so that we are not adversely impacted with the advent of AI. Speaking about the broad impact of AI, he said, “We have seen AI-based applications which can help predict floods and any extreme climate events to help people and farmers.”

‘Impact of AI on people primarily relates to how artificial intelligence will impact jobs’

AI could offer people economic and social empowerment, argued Mr. Singh. “Farmers can get agri-based advisories in their mother tongue. They can get suggestions with regard to how much input you should use as water, how much fertilizers they should use, what kind of pesticide they should use, where they should sell their product.”

Similarly, MSMEs can have the optimal product mix, what they should produce, at what cost they should produce, where they should source their raw materials, at what price they should sell, he added.

RELATED REPORT ON
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Govt. to train women who have taken career breaks in semiconductor industry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will train 90 women in tier 2 and tier 3 cities in the State, who have taken sabbatical for various reasons, in VLSI design and embedded software, skills sought after by the semiconductor industry.

To take this effort forward, the Electronics Sector Skills Council (ESSCI), a State government outfit, has entered into an MoU with Marvell Marvell Semiconductor on Wednesday.

Minister for IT and BT Priyank Kharge said this training programme was mostly designed for women who have taken a career break and still want to get back to work after a sabbatical.

Top priority
“We have always given top priority to skilling programmes to build a future-ready workforce. It is also our endeavour to help women who took career breaks to be industry and technology ready so that they can return to work,” Mr. Kharge said, while addressing a media conference at Bengaluru Technology Summit here on Wednesday. The initiative supported Karnataka’s mission to boost women’s participation in deep-tech sectors. It also strengthens the State’s semiconductor talent pipeline in alignment with India’s growing chip ecosystem, he said.

Visitors at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

> It is also our endeavour to help women who took career breaks to be industry-and technology-ready so that they can return to work
> **PRIYANK KHARGE**
> Minister for IT&BT

Also, under the NIPUNA Karnataka, a State government initiative to skill over 4,000 youth in collaboration with leading corporate partners, the government has approved skill development training by four skilling aggregators in partnership with potential employers including Capgemini, Wells Fargo, Standard Chartered, and Sumeru.

The NIPUNA was targeted for providing training in high-demand fields, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science.

Job opportunities
Over 2,800 job opportunities were expected as part of this mission, the Minister said.

According to the Minister, the NIPUNA Karnataka is rapidly gaining national attention as a powerful collaborative model where corporates and skilling aggregators work hand-in-hand to shape the next generation workforce.

India, U.S. sign MoU to advance cooperation in critical technologies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India and the United States signed an MoU on Wednesday to advance cooperation in critical and emerging technologies, expanding joint efforts in AI, defence, space, quantum computing, clean energy, and telecommunications.

Talent exchange
Both nations emphasised the value of talent exchange and scientific collaboration, supported by partnerships between institutions like the Association of American Universities and the IITs. The signing was attended by Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT, Biotechnology; Rahul Sharma, Managing Director, USIBC India; and Christopher Hodges, U.S. Consul General, Chennai. Earlier in the day, at the summit, the government also unveiled 50 innovative start-up products and solutions spanning IT/ITeS, AgriTech, MedTech, CleanTech, AI, DeepTech, IoT, Cybersecurity, AVGC, SaaS, and ESDM.

These products are designed and developed by start-ups incubated at GoK-supported K-tech Innovation Hubs, CoEs, or TBIs. Most of these start-ups are incubated at K-tech Innovation Hubs, Centres of Excellence, and Technology Business Incubators.

“The showcased solutions reflect Karnataka’s strength in multi-disciplinary innovation and sector-agnostic problem-solving,” said Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, Chairman, KEONICS.

The Hindu Lit for Life Dialogue returns to Bengaluru on Nov. 21

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much-awaited *The Hindu* Lit for Life Dialogue is back in the city. On November 21, an impressive line-up of speakers known for clarity, insight and a refreshing ability to spark meaningful dialogue will take the stage for three compelling sessions at the Museum of Art and Photography from 4 p.m. onwards.

Power of stories
The Hindu Lit for Life celebrates the power of stories and the many ways in which they shape culture. This year, the Dialogue brings together leading voices from literature, journalism, academia and contemporary thought to explore how ideas move across books, public conversations, film, music, theatre, and the expanding world of digital storytelling.

THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE DIALOGUE 2025
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

Highlights
4.40 to 5.30 p.m.: In The Weight Loss Revolution, Ambrish Mithal and Shwetambari Shetty will discuss the issue of drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro and their pros and cons in a conversation with Shivam Vij.

5.35 to 6.25 p.m.: Sanjaya Baru, Devina Mehra, and Narendar Pani will talk about the forces reshaping wealth creation in India in The Flight of Wealth.

6.30 to 7.20 p.m.: Manu Joseph presents The New Laws of Manu: Why The Poor Do Not Kill Us.

The spirit of Lit for Life
The Hindu Lit for Life Dialogue stands for conversations that are sincere, intelligent, and rooted in the belief that ideas can shape the world.

Literature may begin on the page, but its influence is felt everywhere. In what we watch, hear, debate and in the stories that help us understand our own lives.

Bengaluru, with its vibrant community of readers, creators, students, and working professionals, continues to be one of the most engaged and enthusiastic cities for Lit for Life.

The event is in association with Christ University. Associate Partners are Akshayakalpa and St. John’s National Academy of Health Sciences. University Partner: Amity University (Bengaluru). Bookstore partner is Crossword. To register, visit: https://newsth.live/j8y43M

DGP hosts U.K. security delegation to boost tech-driven policing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem on Tuesday hosted a high-level delegation from the United Kingdom’s Homeland Industrial Security sector at the State Police Headquarters in Bengaluru.

The delegation was led by Chandru Iyer, British Deputy High Commissioner for Karnataka, and accompanied by Robert Barnes, Principal Policing and Security Advisor, U.K. Department for Business and Trade.

The visiting team included representatives from nine leading U.K.-based companies specialising in forensics, cyber security, scanning and safety technologies, and crowd-management solutions. During the interaction, the companies showcased advanced products and cutting-edge innovations, highlighting emerging trends in policing and public safety technology.

The discussions focused on contemporary challenges faced by law enforcement, the scope for adopting next-generation security technologies, and avenues to strengthen cooperation between the Karnataka Police and U.K. security firms. Both sides expressed a shared commitment to enhancing public safety, fortifying cyber security, and promoting technology-driven policing in the State.

Officials noted that the visit marks a significant step towards international collaboration in law enforcement, opening doors for joint initiatives, etc. .

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, NOV. 20		
RISE	06:20	SET 17:50
RISE	06:12	SET 17:46
FRIDAY, NOV. 21		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	07:05	SET 18:33
SATURDAY, NOV. 22		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	07:57	SET 19:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	21
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	25	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Mantri Mall in Malleswaram was sealed by the GBA authorities in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Mantri Mall closed over ₹30 cr. property tax arrears

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Central Corporation officials on Wednesday shut down Mantri Mall for accumulating ₹30 crore in property tax arrears, said corporation commissioner Rajendra Cholan P.

According to officials, the mall authorities did not respond to the notices issued to them, prompting the corporation to take action in accordance with guidelines on non-compliance with property tax rules.

Mr. Cholan added that they have launched a drive and identified multiple such violators, and action would be taken against them. “The Central Corporation has many commercial establishments and several have pending tax payments. We are following up on those establishments,” he said.

He noted that many establishments conduct self-assessment and provide false information.

Caste identity influences how teachers judge students in Bihar public schools: IIMB study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A new research study released by the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) has found that teachers in Bihar’s public schools often misjudge how well their students are performing, and these misjudgments vary sharply by caste.

The research shows that even when students from different caste groups score equally well on standardised tests, the perceptions of the teachers do not match the actual performance, with backward-caste students consistently rated lower than they deserve.

The study, ‘Caste identity and teachers’ biased expectations: Evidence from Bihar, India’, conducted by Soham Sahoo, chairperson of Public Policy, and Ritwik Banerjee, chairperson of Economics, analysed data from 105 government schools across Bihar, gathered through a detailed survey of students, teachers, households, and schools.

The study analysed data from 105 government schools across Bihar, gathered through a detailed survey of students, teachers, households, and schools. FILE PHOTO

The students took standardised subject-specific tests in Maths, Hindi, and English, which determined their true academic rank within the class. Their teachers were separately asked to place them in the top, middle, or bottom group based purely on perception. The difference between test-based rank and teacher-assigned rank forms what the researchers call the ‘Evaluation Bias’.

The study finds that the teachers’ perceptions are often inaccurate in general, but the inaccuracy becomes systematic when caste is involved. Teachers, especially those from forward castes, tend to underrate backward caste students, even when their test scores match those of forward-caste classmates taught in the same classroom.

The study also examines other possible explanations such as class size, lower attendance of backward-caste students in classrooms led by forward-caste teachers, or the age and experience of the teacher and finds that these do not account for the gap.

The authors argue that such misjudgments can have long-term consequences. If teachers consistently expect backward caste students to perform poorly despite evidence to the contrary, it may influence classroom interactions, affect the confidence and motivation of these students, and eventually widen educational gaps, an effect consistent with the Pygmalion effect, where teacher expectations shape student outcomes.

The study adds to earlier research on discrimination in grading, but shifts the focus to the beliefs that precede grading, showing that biased expectations exist even before teachers assign marks. The researchers say this makes it crucial to correct misperceptions through caste-sensitisation programmes and simple feedback mechanisms that alert teachers when their perception does not match actual student performance.

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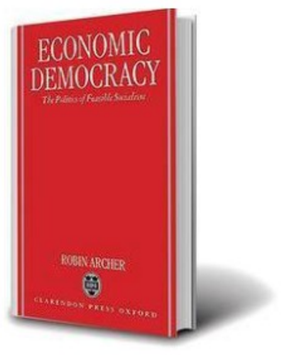
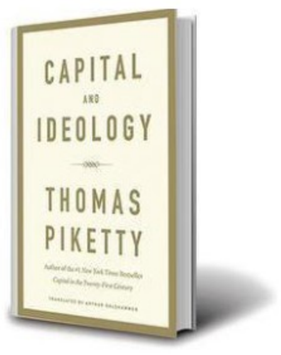
BIBLIOGRAPHY

A new politic: A poster is seen on a screen during a campaign rally for New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani in New York City on October 26. AFP





Zohran Mamdani and the economics of democratic socialism

With the New York Mayor-elect's brand of welfare politics in the spotlight, we read a host of writers including Thomas Piketty and Robin Archer who have weighed in on whether socialism can return to the forefront of political life by pursuing the objective of economic democracy

Atanu Biswas

In his victory speech, New York City's Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani declared, "I am a democratic socialist." It certainly orchestrated renewed interest in learning what democratic socialism is and what its economics are.

Mamdani won portraying a progressive programme that included, among other things, universal childcare, free bus service, frozen rents, and a higher minimum wage to make the highly expensive city more affordable. In fact, Mamdani quoted prominent American socialist activist and trade unionist Eugene Debs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He also referred to a 1961 speech by Martin Luther King Jr. "I call myself a democratic socialist in many ways inspired by the words of Dr. King from decades ago who said, 'Call it democracy or call it democratic socialism. There has to be a better distribution of wealth for all of God's children in this country,'" he said. "And as income inequality has declined nationwide, it has increased in New York City. And, ultimately, what we need is a city where every single person can thrive."

Earlier, during his 2016 presidential campaign, Bernie Sanders raised awareness of democratic socialism. Sanders, a registered independent, described himself as a democratic socialist who supports workplace democracy in the form of worker cooperatives and union democracy. He also admires elements of Nordic social democracy.

Social initiatives

Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader (2019), edited by Richard Dagger and Daniel I. O'Neill, is an extensive collection of classic and modern readings that encompass all of the major "isms."

Sanders, a senator from Vermont, explained his views in the chapter titled "On Democratic Socialism in the United States" in the book and demonstrated how many of the core government initiatives and policies that a majority of Americans consider essential today were once mocked as "socialist." President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal; programmes like Social Security, minimum wage regulations, unemployment insurance, and the forty-hour work week; President Lyndon B. Johnson's later Great Society initiatives like Medicare and Medicaid, which provide the impoverished and old with the bare minimum of medical treatment; and many more are examples of this. In contrast to some socialists, Sanders opposed government ownership of the means of production.

So what exactly is democratic socialism? While proponents of democratic socialism typically advocate for the government to assume control over certain economic sectors, like utilities and healthcare, for the benefit of the general public, there is no universally applicable definition of this ideology. Socialist countries typically have democratic elections and multiple political parties. The majority have mixed economies too. For instance, despite having strong socialist systems, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden all combine elements of capitalism with socialism.

The economics of democratic socialism has been the subject of numerous book-length discussions that offer various perspectives, including theoretical, historical, and policy-orientated. The 1950 book *Socialist Economics* by G.D.H. Cole was a fundamental text describing the theoretical underpinnings of democratic socialism and how it differs from laissez-faire classical economics. It provides fundamental theory that is helpful in comprehending how democratic socialism defines its economic position, which is carefully distinguished from Keynesian neo-classical ideas.

According to Pranab Bardhan's 1990 EPW article "Some Reflections on Premature Obituaries of Socialism," socialism was having trouble adapting to market competition and political democracy without sacrificing its fundamental egalitarian ideals. To tackle the problem, socialist thinkers must create new institutional mechanisms and modify existing ones, suggested Pranab Bardhan.

The feasibility question

Robin Archer's 1995 book *Economic Democracy: The Politics of Feasible Socialism* may be viewed through this lens. Socialism can return to the forefront of political life in advanced capitalist countries by pursuing the objective of economic democracy, Archer argued. In economic democracy, according to him, firms function in a market economy but are run by their workers. He demonstrated how it preserves the benefits of a corporatist industrial relations structure while appealing to the principle of individual freedom. It focuses on how a socialist economy might be feasibly organised – that is, realistic rather than idealistic.

French economist Thomas Piketty has authored books in which his analysis and recommendations heavily touch on that area of democratic socialist economics. His *Ideology and Capital* (2019) is a comprehensive historical, ideological, and political-economic analysis of inequality regimes. Crucially, it contains a suggested programme of what Piketty refers to as "participatory socialism," which is conceptually very close to democratic socialism despite some subtle differences in emphasis and framing.

'Participatory socialism'

"The system I call participatory socialism rests on social ownership, social control over capital, and permanent circulation of property, combined with shared power within firms and democratic participation in all forms of decision-making," Piketty states in *Capital and Ideology*. In essence, that's democratic socialism, but expressed in a way that makes sense in terms of modern policy and is backed by a wealth of historical evidence.

While democratic socialism focuses on progressive taxation and social welfare for redistribution, participatory socialism also includes the concept of a universal capital grant. Thus, it can be viewed as democratic socialism 2.0 that incorporates participation, education, and wealth disclosure; it's less revolutionary and more reformist. In essence, Piketty adds a structural adjustment to wealth inequality to the Nordic success narrative, something that even Scandinavia hasn't entirely accomplished.

In his 2021 paper, "Justice, Power, and Participatory Socialism: on Piketty's Capital and Ideology," published in Analyse & Kritik, Martin O'Neill explored how Piketty's ideas for "participatory socialism" would disperse economic power within society in addition to redistributing wealth and income. Piketty's participatory socialism offers a useful and perceptive collection of suggestions for rescuing our economies and society from the ravages of hypercapitalism, according to Martin.

Let's return to the aftermath of democratic socialism related to Mamdani's triumph. "To me, it's this radical idea that working people have economic rights," U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat, defined democratic socialism, listing housing, a liveable wage, healthcare, and childcare as examples.

Can democratic socialist candidates running outside of New York City, however, use Mamdani's strategy as a winning model? Supporters certainly find lessons from Mamdani's accomplishment, but it's not that simple.

Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Language in conversation

Vaishali R. Venkat

"Genie, help me! My math calculations and thoughts are doing somersaults and spinning in circles!"

"What's it now, dear?"

"Genie, I've been wrestling with this math puzzle for nearly an hour, and I still can't crack it. It feels painfully torturous."

"Little Moon! It feels torturous to you only because the puzzle itself is tortuous."

"Oh, for God's sake, stop your vocabulary aerobics, Genie! My mind is already doing cartwheels."

"Moon, calm your brain. 'Torturous' means something so difficult or full of suffering that it squeezes your soul the way a lemon is squeezed. It becomes so unbearable that you clutch your head and howl at the ceiling like a confused little wolf. But the puzzle you are trying to solve is tortuous. 'Tortuous' means twists and turns, full of changes in direction, never simple or straightforward. The puzzle is squeezing you, so it feels torturous to you. But the puzzle itself is like a maze, too convoluted and complicated, and that is why it is tortuous."

"Wow, Genie. Your language lesson is surprisingly energising."

"Glad to hear it, Moon. That math puzzle was 'enervating' to the point that you looked like a poked, deflated balloon, but I somehow managed to 'energise' you with a dose of vocabulary wizardry."

"Genie, I barely wrapped my head around 'torturous' and 'tortuous', and now you've tossed two more words at me. What's this 'energise' and 'enervate' business now? All the words are tumbling over one another and doing acrobatics in my brain."

"Moon, 'energise' means to fill you with power, excitement, and spark. It happens when your brain suddenly feels happy, starts dancing again, and you feel energetic and refreshed. 'Enervate' is the opposite. It means to drain your energy until you droop like a phone battery stuck at one per cent. It's like drinking glucose when you're tired and then immediately letting a math puzzle enervate you all over again."

"Interesting, Genie... since you've energised my brain, explain this too. What parts of speech are these four words you taught me and how do I use them correctly in sentences?"

"Moon, listen carefully. These four little troublemakers belong to two different kingdoms of grammar. 'Torturous' and 'tortuous' are always adjectives. They describe things, that is, nouns or pronouns. A torturous exam, a tortuous path, a tortuous puzzle that makes you annoyed and drained. Adjectives are simply labels you stick on nouns or pronouns to show what kind of creature, person, or thing they are."

"Understood, Genie... now don't leave me hanging. What about 'energise' and 'enervate'? What category do these two fit into?"

"Moon, 'energise' and 'enervate' are verbs – action words. They show what something does. One verb fills your battery, the other sucks it dry like a grumpy little vacuum. Example: The scorching Sun enervated the children, and they stopped playing."

"Genie, wait, I shall finish the examples. A swim in cold water always energises me. Right?"

"Perfect, Moon."

Word of the day

Prolix:
tediously prolonged or tending to speak or write at great length

Synonym: verbal

Usage: *She is editing a prolix manuscript.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/prolixpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈprəʊ.lɪks/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The qualification rounds for the 2026 FIFA men's World Cup have wrapped up. Here is a quiz on one of the most anticipated tournaments in the world

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
How many countries will take part in the coming edition and how many slots are left to be filled through playoffs?

QUESTION 2
Which country was the first to qualify for the tournament along with the co-hosts?

QUESTION 3
Name the confederation which will host its own play-off tournament for four of the remaining slots.

QUESTION 4
While New Zealand claimed the only spot allocated to Oceania, name the country from the confederation which is headed to the intercontinental play-offs.

QUESTION 5
Ahead of the play-offs, how many countries are set to play their first ever World Cup in 2026? Name them.

Visual question:
Name this nation which became the smallest ever (by population) to qualify for the tournament after securing a draw against Jamaica on Tuesday. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Mary Shelley wrote the book as part of a ghost story competition with her friends during the wet summer of 1816. The competition was the idea of this English Romantic poet. **Ans: Lord Byron**
2. The author of *A Gothic Story.* **Ans: Horace Walpole**
3. A novel and its author are part of the title of this film starring Gary Oldman, Winona Ryder, Keanu Reeves, and Anthony Hopkins. **Ans: *Bram Stoker's Dracula***
4. Name this Gothic novel written by a Scottish writer. **Ans: *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde***
5. This short story was adapted by Mike Flannagan into a miniseries. **Ans: *The Fall of the House of Usher***
Visual: *Wuthering Heights* was repackaged after the success of this series. **Ans: The *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Akshay Kumar Khanna| Deepak Sudhir| Soumendra Banerjee| Asrin Khatun

ADVERTISEMENT

UP Rising

Yogi Adityanath's Vision Transforms Ayodhya, Lucknow & Tribal Heartlands

"Uttar Pradesh is creating models the world will follow in the future."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

A new era of development, technology, culture & heritage in Uttar Pradesh

AYODHYA: A GLOBAL MODEL OF SPIRITUAL & MODERN DEVELOPMENT

Ayodhya's Transformation Under CM Yogi

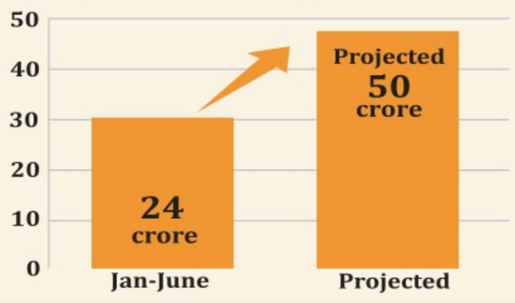
Ayodhya today stands as a **prosperous, rapidly developing spiritual city,** drawing millions of visitors from India and abroad. Even before construction began on the **Shri Ram Temple,** CM Yogi Adityanath had charted a long-term plan to **restore Ayodhya to its historic glory.**

Ayodhya Master Plan 2031

A massive urban reform mission covering **133.67 sq. km,** backed by an investment of **₹1,000+ crore,** is turning Ayodhya into a **world-class, sustainable spiritual hub.**

- Greenfield Township ₹ 2,180 crore
- International Airport ₹ 1,450 crore
- Outer Ring Road ₹ 3,935 crore
- Ram Ki Paidi Redevelopment ₹ 24 crore
- Guptar Ghat ₹ 77 crore
- Hotels & Tourism ₹ 350 crore

Ayodhya Tourist Footfall (Jan- June 2025)



"Ayodhya is emerging as the world's foremost spiritual destination."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

LUCKNOW TO HOST 'MINI INDIA': 19th NATIONAL JAMBOREE RETURNS AFTER 61 YEARS

A Global Cultural Convergence

From **November 23–29,** Lucknow will host over **33,000 Scouts & Guides** and **1,500 international delegates** at Vrindavan Yojana.

Jamboree Dashboard

- 3,500 tents
- 100 kitchens
- 300-acre event space

Key Features

- **300-acre Tent City** with 3,500 tents
- **30,000-seat Central Arena**
- Cuisine & culture from every Indian state
- Dedicated telecom tower for **40,000 users**
- **100-bed hospital,** 15 dispensaries, 50 doctors
- Temporary **planetarium,** science & technology pavilions
- Representation from **Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan & 10 Asia-Pacific nations**

SMART, SAFE & TECH-DRIVEN

- Drone shows narrating Scouting history
- AI-supported communication
- Plastic-free, green energy-powered ecosystem

PRAYAGRAJ SHINES GLOBALLY 'Sounds of Kumbh' Gets Grammy Nomination

Celebrating the spiritual energy of Prayagraj, the album **"Sounds of Kumbh"** has secured a **Grammy nomination** for Best Global Music Album at the 68th Grammy Awards.

Album Highlights

- Curated by Siddhant Bhatia
- 12 tracks, 50+ artists
- Blends ghat ambience, ancient mantras & binaural beats
- Showcases Mahakumbh's 45-day spectacle on the world stage

TRIBAL TRANSFORMATION: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH PRIDE & PROGRESS

Dharti Aaba Campaign: Development in 517 Villages

Under CM Yogi, tribal welfare has reached **unprecedented saturation levels** across **26 districts,** bringing schemes like:

Schemes

- **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi**
- **Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana**

Major Achievements

- Tharu, Buksa, Bhotia tribes receive **housing, education, drinking water, and electricity**
- **815 Buksa families** in forest regions fully connected
- **371 Tharu SHGs** linked to national markets via Tharu Handicraft Company
- New Tharu Museum in Balrampur; more coming in Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Maharajganj
- Eklavya Model Schools & Sarvodaya Hostels uplift tribal youth
- **700+ ST candidates** selected for administrative roles

UP LEADS THE AI REVOLUTION: FARMING, GOVERNANCE & CULTURE GO DIGITAL

UP Global Pilot for AI in Agriculture

Under a World Bank, Google partnership, Uttar Pradesh became the **world's first pilot site** where AI transformed outcomes for **smallholder farmers.**

- **AI IN AGRICULTURE** — Boosting small farmer's productivity
- **SMART CITIES & ICCCS** — Enhancing urban governance
- **AI IN HEALTH & MAHAKUMBH-2025** — Empowering care and events in UP

AI Across UP

Transforming Lives with Technology

- Real-time crowd management
- Khoya-Paya Centre reunites missing persons in minutes
- AI-driven emergency response systems
- AI-powered diagnostics & robotic surgeries

"Uttar Pradesh is blending ancient heritage with future-ready innovation"

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

From Ayodhya's global rise to Lucknow's grand Jamboree, from the Grammy spotlight on Prayagraj to deep outreach in tribal villages, and from AI-led agriculture to smart governance, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has positioned Uttar Pradesh as India's fastest-rising state.

A new Uttar Pradesh is taking shape

spiritual, modern, tech-driven, inclusive, and globally admired

A BG-BGE

New UAS-M gets UGC recognition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The newly carved out University of Agricultural Sciences Mandya (UAS-M) has got UGC recognition, within six months of its formation. The UGC has issued a notification on Tuesday, including the newly formed UAS-M in the list of country's higher education institutes. With this, the courses which would be offered by the university would also get UGC recognition. According to the university, the UGC notification is available on website https://www.ugc.gov.in As per the UGC norms, it has to now obtain NAAC accreditation and also operate within the geographical jurisdiction allotted to it. The university stated that the construction of the administrative building would commence, as a sum of ₹70 crore has been released

Four-day vocal concert to be held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the Fifty Fifth Music conference organised by the Bangalore Gayana Samaja, on its premises on K.R. Road, following concerts will be held over the next four days.

The following vocal concerts will be held from Thursday to Sunday between 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; They include Niranjan Dindodi, vocal duet by Anahitha and Apoorva; Kalyanapuram S. Aravind and Vignesh Ishwar.

विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

क्रमांकः-विशा/स्टोर/2025-25 (416), दिनांक-14.11.2025

निविदा सूचना का शुद्धिपत्र

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक **SB/Store/2025-25 (306), Dated-30.09.2025** द्वारा **Non Linear Junction Detector** के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा में क्रय किये जाने वाले उपरोक्त उपकरण के **समय सारणी** में आंशिक संशोधन के संबंध में **"शुद्धिपत्र" (Corrigendum)** जारी किया गया है जो **website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** पर विभाग की वेबसाईट **www.mppolice.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।

अतिरिक्त पुलिस अधीक्षक
(प्रशासन), वि.शा. पु.मु. भोपाल

G21655/25

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
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FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.
DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993-AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. As Amended

10.09.2025

RC/205/2025
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Versus
MR. MOHAMED SAJID

In the Matter of;
(CH-1)
STATE BANK OF INDIA, RASMEC HOSUR BRANCH, SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AT SRI VAARI BUILDING, PLOT NO.2, PHASE-I, ZUZUVADI, HOSUR, TAMIL NADU-635 126. **...APPLICANT BANK CERTIFICATEHOLDER**
-Versus-

To,
(CD-1)
MR. MOHAMED SAJID, S/O. MOHAMED ARIF, RESIDING AT: NO.269, 13TH CROSS, GOVINDAPURA MAIN ROAD, BENGALURU, KARNATAAKA-560 045.
...DEFENDANTS/CERTIFICATE DEBTORS

CH Name	Int Type/Mode	Int Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	RC Amount (Rs.)
State Bank of India	Compound Interest (Monthly)	7.25% p.a	07/03/2022	30/04/2024	43,99,644/-

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1) in **OA/186/2022** an amount of **Rs.43,99,644/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousands Six Hundred Forty Four Only)** along with cost, expenses and future interest @ 7.25% p.a. Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 07/03/2022 till realization and costs of **Rs.79,065/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Thousands Sixty Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

CD Name	Int Type/Mode	Int Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Liability Type	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD-1) MR. MOHAMED SAJID	Compound Interest (Monthly)	7.25% p.a	07/03/2022	30/04/2024	Fully	43,99,644/-

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **28/10/2025** at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **10/09/2025**
(SANJIV KUMAR)
RECOVERY OFFICER - 1

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1 KARNATAKA
4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJ BHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU 560001

FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.
DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993-AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. As Amended

03.09.2025

RC/157/2025
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Versus
MR. MOHAMMED FAHIMULLA

In the Matter of;
(CH-1)
STATE BANK OF INDIA, RASMEC HOSUR BRANCH, SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AT SRI VAARI BUILDING, PLOT NO.2, PHASE-I, ZUZUVADI, HOSUR, TAMIL NADU-635 126. **...APPLICANT BANK CERTIFICATEHOLDER**
-Versus-

To,
(CD-1)
MR. MOHAMMED FAHIMULLA, S/O. LATE MOHAMMED KALEEMULLA, RESIDING AT: NO.88, 1ST FLOOR. 5TH MAIN, 2ND CROSS, KEB LAYOUT, SANJAYANAGAR, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560 094.
...DEFENDANTS/CERTIFICATE DEBTORS

CH Name	Int Type/Mode	Int Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	RC Amount (Rs.)
State Bank of India	Compound Interest (Monthly)	7.55% p.a	14/04/2022	05/02/2024	47,41,912/-

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1) in **OA/1076/2022** an amount of **Rs.47,41,912/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve Only)** along with cost, expenses and future interest @ 7.55% p.a. Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 14/04/2022 till realization and costs of **Rs.84,344/- (Rupees Eighty Four Thousands Three Hundred Forty Four Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

CD Name	Int Type/Mode	Int Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Liability Type	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD-1) MR.MOHAMMED FAHIMULLA	Compound Interest (Monthly)	7.55% p.a	14/04/2022	05/02/2024	Fully	47,41,912/-

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **23/10/2025** at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **03/09/2025**
(SANJIV KUMAR)
RECOVERY OFFICER - 1

विद्युत सेवा आयोग
उत्तर प्रदेश पावर कारपोरेशन लि0
(उ0प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम)
एस0एल0डी0सी0 परिसर (निकट मंत्री आवास) विभूति खण्ड, फेज–2
गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ–226010

सूचना

उ0प्र0 पावर कारपोरेशन लि0 में "कम्पनी–सचिव On Fixed term Basis के एक पद पर चयन हेतु निर्गत विज्ञापन सं0 03/VSA/2025/CS दिनांक 08.10.2025 के अंतर्गत आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि को **दिनांक 04.12.2025** तक विस्तारित किया जाता है। मूल विज्ञापन कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट **www.uppcl.org** के Vacancy/ Result सेक्शन में **दिनांक 08.10.2025** में उपलब्ध है। विज्ञापन में उल्लिखित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Rayapudi, Amaravati-522 237, Andhra Pradesh State.

NIT No.93/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/16/2025-HB/2nd Call Dated: 19.11.2025

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NAME OF WORK: "APCRDA-RFP For Selection Of Service Provider For House Keeping Services and Security Services for APCRDA Project Office Building at Rayapudi, Amaravati Capital City".

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **21.11.2025 to 28.11.2025** up to **14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **28.11.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **28.11.2025 @ 16.00Hrs.** For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

NIT No.98/MAU61-USI0HB(AQCC)/2025-HB Dt: 19.11.2025

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NAME OF WORK: "APCRDA-Construction of Amaravati Quantum Computation Centre (AQCC)-RFP for selection of Firm for Design-Build of Amaravati Quantum Computation Centre (AQCC) at Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh.

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **22.11.2025 to 06.12.2025** up to **14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **06.12.2025** up to **15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **06.12.2025 @ 16.00Hrs.** For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Amaravati

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NHMPP-BOILER & WTP/02094/2025-26 Date: 19-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites SHORT TERM tender from the eligible Contractors/ Firms through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Manufacturer/firms who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka. gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr @intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of contract
1	Providing services for operation & Maintenance of solid type multi fuel based steam generation Boilers & water treatment plant at Nandini Hi tech mega powder plant Ramanagara.	1 Job	Rs. 3,84,615	2 years

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated: 20-11-2025 to 27-11-2025 up to 4:00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 27-11-2025 up to 4:00 pm.
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 28-11-2025 up to 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kudlu Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068.

No. BSCC/EE/KD/Tend-01/2025-26 Date: 19-11-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)
Short Term Tender Notification
Two cover system (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Kudlu Division, South Zone-2, BSCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BSCC invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper camber, shoulder formation, side drain, improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub-arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 2 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 74, 77) Package No. CSSIP MDP-01. Amount put to tender : **Rs. 935.70 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 14,03,550/-** (Rs.1.00 lakh to be transferred through e-Portal & remaining amount to be provided in the form of BG/DD/FDR).
2	Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper camber, shoulder formation, side drain, improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub-arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 2 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 75, 76) Package No. CSSIP MDP-02. Amount put to tender : **Rs. 983.80 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 14,75,700/-** (Rs.1.00 lakh to be transferred through e-Portal & remaining amount to be provided in the form of BG/DD/FDR).
3	Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper camber, shoulder formation, side drain, improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub-arterial and other important roads under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 4 works in GO BSCC Sl.No. 34, 50, 49, 78) Package No. CSSIP BH-03. Amount put to tender : **Rs. 799.10 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 11,98,650/-** (Rs.1.00 lakh to be transferred through e-Portal & remaining amount to be provided in the form of BG/DD/FDR).

Period of completion including monsoon: **180 days for each work.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24.11.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **26.11.2025 at 11.00 hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Kudlu Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-68. (3)** Last date for submission of tenders : **06.12.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **08.12.2025 after 4.30 pm in the office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kudlu Division, BSCC

Government of Tamil Nadu
Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department

The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department has published a tender on the official portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** inviting applications from eligible Caterers for cooking and supplying three meals a day to students residing in **38 Social Justice Hostels** functioning in Chennai District.

For further details, please contact 73388 01253.

District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer Chennai

DIPR/6208/Tender/2025

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By. Regd. A/D Desti failing which by Publication
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I / II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT 2)
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pin Code - 560 001.

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULES 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC / 282 / 2022

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Versus
SRI. B.T. SRIDHARA & OTHERS

To,
(CHB) Punjab National Bank
B.H. Road, Tumkur,
Tumkur Taluk and District
... Certificate Holder

(CD-1) B.T. Sridhara S/o. Late N. Thimmegowda
Ballagere, Nagavalli Post, Hebbur Hobli, Tumkur Taluk and District.
Also At : Sri B.T. Sridhara S/o. Late N. Thimmegowda
Govt. Primary School, Soorenahalli, Koratagere Taluk, Tumkur.
(CD-2) Sri. Huchachary,
Teacher, No. 718, Mane, IDSMT Layout, Sira Gate, Tumkur.
(CD-3) Sri. Rajanna
Sri Vishwabharathi H.P.S. Mallasandra, Tumkur.
(CD-4) Sri. L.T. Shankar
Office of the Executive Officer, Taluk Panchayath, Kunigal, Tumkur.
... Certified Debtor

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the **Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-2) in TA/1821/2017** an amount of **Rs. 33,50,294 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Fifty Thousands Two Hundred Ninety Four Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 12.75 % Compound Interest **w.e.f. 01-11-2014** and costs till realization has become due against you (Jointly and Severally / Fully / Limited)

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. In addition to the sum of aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date **17-08-2022.**

RECOVERY OFFICER - II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRT 2)

You are directed that the payment made, if any, by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the Certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the payment position regularly.
The Consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the verification of the Recovery Officer. You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars wherefrom the recovery of the debt is to be made.
Note : Strike out whichever is not applicable.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 29/2025 Date: 13.11.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
01	56251038A	Route LED Signal Lighting Unit 110 V AC	900 Nos.	04.12.2025
02	56251042A	Aspect LED Main Signal Unit 110V AC Red / Green / Yellow	2030 Nos.	09.12.2025
03	56251097	PVC Power Cable 2Cx25 Sq mm	150 Kms.	10.12.2025
04	56255048A	48 Fibre Armoured Optical Fibre Cable	1500 Kms.	10.12.2025
05	19251031	Set of 10 items consisting of Bolt hex head, Nut hex lock, Washer flat	23 Set	12.12.2025
06	46245001B	Uninsulated Cadmium Copper Catenary Wire (19 / 2.10 mm) 65 Sq.mm.	21000 Mtr.	18.12.2025
07	43251022A	Disconnecting and Earthing Device rating 63 Amps (AC-23), 750 V AC	224 Nos.	18.12.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/655/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University U/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Girinagar, Pune - 411 025.
(An Autonomous Organisation funded by DD R&D, MoD, GOI)
(Telephone No. (020) 24604410 / 24604412)

Advt No: DIAT/F/ACAD/PD/2025-01

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP-2026

The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology is an autonomous Institution, fully funded by the Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence. It was established to impart postgraduate education in Engineering and applied sciences with a thrust area relevant to Defence, Industries, R&D and to conduct research in core areas of Defence Technologies.
DIAT invites applications for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship-2026. Interested and eligible candidates may apply for the position of Postdoctoral Fellow. The application should be submitted to the Joint Registrar (Academic), DIAT (DU), Girinagar, Pune-411025, on or before January 27, 2026.
For more details, kindly visit **www.diat.ac.in**

CORRIGENDUM - PH.D ADMISSION NOTICE: JANUARY 2026

In connection with the earlier PhD Admission Notification dated 04-10-2025, the eligibility criteria for the Institutional scholarship category have been revised and the last date for receiving the hard copy of the application has been extended until 5th December 2025. The candidates who have submitted their applications, no need to resubmit again.

Joint Registrar (Academics), DIAT (DU)

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

CANARA BANK
REGIONAL OFFICE - WEST

NOTICE TOWARDS BREAK OPEN OF LOCKERS

Sl. No.	Name And Address of the locker	Account No.	Locker Dues (excluding penalties)	Date of Notice
	Branch Name & DP Code: MAHALAKSHMI LAYOUT - 0886			
1	**DHANALAXMI D.** EWS, IIND STAGE, RAJAJINAGAR BENGALURU-560010	123007 545206	**Rs. 18880/-**	09/10/2025 14/10/2025
2	**LAKSHMINARAYAN V**, NO.22, 6TH CROSS, GANESHA BLOCK NEAR PROLIGHT SYSTEMS, NANDINI LAYOUT, BNG-560096	123007 009761	**Rs. 25167/-**	09/10/2025 14/10/2025
3	**MALLAMMA S N,** QRTS No.3 TALUK HOSPITAL QRTS, NELAMANGALA, BANGLORE NORTH DIST. - 562123	123007 514150	**Rs. 26955/-**	09/10/2025 14/10/2025
4	**PUSHPALATHA MUKUND,** 478, GF, 3 C MAIN ROAD, 1ST STAGE, 2ND PHASE MANJUNATH NAGAR 560010	123007 597035	**Rs. 17839/-**	09/10/2025 14/10/2025
	Branch Name & DP Code: MC LAYOUT, VIJAYANAGR - 10427			
5	**BASAVARAJ T**, NO.14. 2nd CROSS, 3rd STAGE, NEAR GOOD WILL APARTIMENT, BINNY LAYOUT, VIJAYANAGAR 2nd STAGE, BNG- 560040	0427601 0002550	**Rs. 9440/-**	10/06/2025 12/07/2025
6	**INDRA B MURTHY (NEE), INDIRA S H**, 729 10TH CROSS 5TH MAIN, MAGADI ROAD BANGALORE 560040	0427601 0000170	**Rs. 7872.39**	10/06/2025 12/07/2025
7	**SADASHIVA MAIYA G**, SRI MATHA STORES 1/E M C ROAD VIJAYANAGAR BANGALORE - 560040	0427601 0004197	**Rs. 8250.46**	10/06/2025 12/07/2025
8	**RAVINDRANATH N**, A A BANGALORE 560040	0427601 0000971	**Rs. 9440/-**	10/06/2025 12/07/2025
	Branch Name & DP Code: MALLESWARAM MAIN - 409			
9	**MANJULA S,** 46/182, 5TH MAIN 5TH CROSS, MALLESWARAM BANGALORE - 560003	123007 489795	**Rs. 7675.73**	09/05/2025 10/06/2025
10	**SALMA KHAN**, NO. 21 3RD CROSS MD BLOCK MALLESWARAM - 560003	123006 127850	**Rs. 8676/-**	09/05/2025 10/06/2025
11	**SREELATHA K,** 728/B, 3 RD MAIN, GOKULA I STAGE, II PHASE, MATHIKERE, BANGALORE 560054	123006 202371	**Rs. 7718/-**	09/05/2025 10/06/2025
	Branch Name & DP Code: VYALIKAVAL - 417			
12	**MEERA PAI K**, NO 283, UPPER PALACE ORCHARD, VYALIKAVAL 560003	123005 570989	**Rs. 18880/-**	09/06/2025 21/08/2025

A Public notice is hereby given to all the persons concerned and public in general that the person/s named under this notice have availed the facility of safe depost lockers at the below mentioned branches of Canara Bank (including branches of e- Syndicate bank). The respective branches have already addressed individual letters/Notices by registered post, with acknowledgement due (AD) to locker hirers/ LOA at the latest available address as per our Bank records with a request to remit the arrears of Locker rent. Despite of these notices, the locker hirers/ LOA have not contacted the Branch and have not remitted the locker rent arrears.
Below named Locker Hirers and their legal heirs are requested to consider this as the Final Notice and contact the Branch concerned with necessary documents and remit the locker rent arrears within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the Bank will break open the lockers without any further notice or intimation, at the cost and sole risk of the hiers or their legal respresentatives/heirs.

Date: 19.11.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

SELF DECLARATION

I, T. Sai Eshwar, Son of Sri. Praveen Kumar T, Residing at No. 021, F Block, Garadi Apartments, K.R. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560 004, do hereby declare that I have embraced Christianity and renounced Hinduism with effect from 25.10.2025 and I have changed my name from **T. Sai Eshwar to AARON JONES** and shall hereafter be known **as AARON JONES.** It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dilip Dayanand Kamat S/o Dayanand Kamat R/at Mahalasa Krupa, Plot No.3, Amabaji Housing Board, Presentation Convent, Margao, Salcete, Goa-403602 do hereby solemnly state that, I have changed my daughter's name from **DIA DILIP KAMAT** to **VAISHNAVI DILIP KAMAT.** I further state that, her name will be continued as **VAISHNAVI DILIP KAMAT** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 19.11.2025 sworn to Notary.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Bid Number : GEM/2025/B/6886916
Dated : 13-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Hiring of man power for Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru Division for a period of 24 Months.	Rs. 10,67,22,893.09
Tender No. E-GSU-ELE-2025-26-OT-GeM-03	

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 16:00 Hrs. on 04-12-2025

For details log on: http://gem.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti
PUB/658/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Unit / Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
SALE OF FLYASH AT SGWF
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Action for the following work:

Description of Auction Sale: Auction of approximately 64 Tons Flyash at Satellite Goods Terminal Whitefield Goods Shed.
Reserve Price:- Rs. 44,800/- (for 64 Tons Flyash at the rate of Rs. 0.70/- per Kg.)
Security Deposit : 10,000/-

Date & Time of Auction:
Upto 12:30 Hrs. on 02-12-2025

For details log on:
www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/656/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA)
Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
777, Saatvik Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajender Nagar, Dehradun
Telephone +91-135-2753894, Tele-fax +91-135-2754895
Email: uusdip@gmail.com, Website: www.uusdip.org

Adv. No: UUSDA/P-101 Date: .11.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The **"Program Director"**, Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Government of Uttarakhand **(the Employer)** invites online bids through the Uttarakhand State e-procurement portal **https://uktenders.gov.in** from elibigle Bidders for the execution of the works as detailed below:

S. No.	Name of Work	Package No.	Last Date & Time of Submission
1	Design and Construction of Storm Water Drainage System of Jyotirmath Town, Chamoli District, Uttarakhand	SWD-JM-01	26.12.2025 upto 15:00 hours IST
2	Design and Construction of Water Supply, Sewerage System & Sewage Treatment Plant, House Service Connections and Allied Works with 5 Years Operation and Maintenance Period in Jyotirmath Town, Chamoli District, Uttarakhand	WS&WW-JM-01	26.12.2025 upto 15:00 hours IST

Date of publication of Bidding document	21.11.2025 at 16:00 hours IST
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	05.12.2025 - 11:00 hours IST for S. No. 1 05.12.2025 - 16:00 hours IST for S. No. 2
Date and Time of availability of the Bidding document	21.11.2025 - 16:00 hours IST
Last Date and Time for downloading of the Bidding document	26.12.2025 - 15:00 hours IST
Date and Time for opening of the bids	26.12.2025 - 15:30 hours for S.No. 1 26.12.2025 - 16:00 hours for S.No. 2

The prospective bidders can download the detailed bidding document and upload the bid on the website, **https://uktenders.gov.in.** Program Director, UUSDA reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reasons thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, UPENDRA B, R/a No. E/4/2, Kundanoor, Chitapur, Kalaburagi, Karnataka Pin-585225 now camped at Bangalore have changed my name from Upendra B to Mohammed Ashraf vide affidavit dt. 18/11/2025 before Notary C.V.Earappa, Bangalore.

WE, Palle Govardhan Reddy & D Saritha, Residing at 11-208/ B, S.V. Nagar, M.R.Palli, Tirupathi, Chittoor, Andhra pradesh- 517502 have changed our son name from P.Akshith Reddy to Palle Akshith Reddy, vide affidavit dated 08/11/2025 before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru

I, Mir Ziafath Ali, S/o Syed Sarfaraz Hussain, R/at Alipur Gouribidanur Taluq, Chikkaballapur Dist -561213, have changed my name from Mir Ziyafath Ali to Mir Ziafath Ali vide affidavit dated 09/11/2025 sworn before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, **YOGENDRA S TIWARI,** UID No.403799470679 and my spouse **Mrs. JYOTSNA TIWARI,** UID No.820546672959 cause this General Public Notice that we have disowned our Son **TARUN TIWARI** due to his bad habits and disrespect to his parents. We debar our said son from all our movable and immovable properties including liquid cash and deposits, effective immediately. Anybody dealing with **Mr. TARUN TIWARI** will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and we will not be responsible for any act deed or dealing done by **Mr. TARUN TIWARI**, vide affidavit dated 07.11.2025 sworn before Notary **Veena J**, Bengaluru

Stalemate over third round of counselling continues

HC delivers divergent verdict on KEA's procedure. The petitions, filed by some of the candidates challenging the procedure of allotment in the third round, will be heard by a third judge and till then the counselling process for 900 seats is on hold

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

GRADUATE MEDICAL, DENTAL COURSES

The row over allotment seats for MBBS and BDS courses in the third round of counselling in State remained unresolved with two judges in a division bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday delivering a divergent judgement over the correctness of the procedure adopted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) in allotting seats in this round of counselling.

Justice Jayant Banerji set aside the provisional allotment list of third round announced by the KEA on October 24, and directed the KEA to undertake the process of third round afresh strictly as per the directions of the Supreme Court in the case of *State of UP Vs. Bhavna Tiwari*. He directed the KEA to conclude the two stages of the third round of counselling declare final list of seat allotment or before December 2. However, Justice K.V. Aravind, permitted the KEA to go ahead based on the provisional allotment list published on October 24 and complete this round expeditiously and compete all remaining rounds of counselling by December 10.

Following a divergent view, the petitions, filed by some of the candidates challenging the procedure of allotment in the third round, will have to be heard by a third judge and till then the counselling process would remain halted. The allotment to around 900 MBBS seats, including vacant seats under management quota, are on hold due to pendency of the case the petition since October 26.

In his judgement, Justice Banerji said that the apex court in *Bhavna Tiwari's* case had said that upgrade windows post-round two for admitted candidates to shift to better seats has to be permitted without reopening counselling to new entrants.

The new registrations for the first stage of third round of counselling for the 443 new seats could not have been made by KEA, Justice Banerji said, while pointing out that only the admitted candidates post second round of counselling would be entitled to participate in the first stage of the third round of counselling. Hence, the provisional seat allotment list of candidates of third round was contrary to the apex court's directions, Justice Banerji said.

Quoting Section 17 of the Graduate Medical Education Regulations (GMER), 2023, of the National Medical Commission (NMC), Justice Banerji said that newly added 443 seats in some medical colleges could not have been considered for allotment in the third round of counselling. He said these seats in the third round gave rise to complications in considering students for allotment of seats.

However, Justice Aravind, in his judgement, said that seats were increased in several medical colleges across the country when the counselling process was underway and admissions were made to such seats across the country, including through the All India Quota (AIQ).

Hence, not allowing admission to newly-added 443 seats in the third round in Karnataka would amount to discriminatory practice, said Justice Aravind while also pointing out that the NMC itself has increased intake in several colleges when the second and the third round of counselling was under way and made available increased seats for allotment through the ongoing counselling process across the country.

Ensure safety gear for children riding pillion in six months: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The safety gadgets for children were introduced through Section 138(7) of Central Motor Vehicle (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the State government to take steps to ensure availability of crash helmet and safety harness, to be worn by young children while riding pillion on two-wheelers, in the market in sufficient numbers for enforcing the rule that makes wearing of these safety gadgets mandatory.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha issued the direction while disposing of a PIL petition filed in 2023 by Archana Bhat K., an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology in a private medical college in Shivamogga.

Continue awareness

The Bench gave six months time for the State authorities for enforcing the rule in the State after ensuring availability of safety gadgets in the market, while also directing the authorities to continue programme for creating awareness about new rule, which mandates a motorcycle rider to ensure that a child between the ages of nine months and four years, carried as a pillion rider, has to wear a crash helmet and safety harness compulsorily.

Safety tests needed

The Transport Department, quoting the information from the manufacturers, had earlier told the court that the manufacture of these new safety gadgets required time as they have to undergo tests before being sold in the market.

The safety gadgets for children were introduced through Section 138(7) of Central Motor Vehicle (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022, which was notified on February 15, 2022, under Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Besides safety equipment, the new rules also prescribe that the speed of the motorcycle, with the child up to age four years being carried as a pillion, should not be more than 40 kmph.

University of Liverpool to start its operations from Alembic City

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The U.K.-based University of Liverpool, which has recently announced establishing its first foreign campus in Bengaluru, has now announced the location and said it would start the operations from Alembic City located near Whitefield.

In its official communication, the university has said that the admissions for the 2026 academic year are open now and interested candidates can visit https://www.bengaluru.liverpool.ac.uk/ for details.

For the first batch, the university will offer undergraduate programmes in Computer Science, Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Biomedical Sciences, and, 'a first for U.K. campuses in India', Game Design.

Compensation for victims of stray dog attacks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A panel will oversee case evaluations and facilitate the release of funds to eligible claimants

In response to the alarming rise in stray dog attacks across the city, the State government has rolled out a compensation scheme for affected citizens.

Under the new directive, individuals injured in dog-bite incidents within the Greater Bengaluru municipal limits will receive a financial assistance of ₹5,000.

For severe cases, where victims succumb to injuries or develop rabies following an attack, the government has announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of the victims. According to the notification, the scheme is restricted to Bengaluru's municipal areas and does not extend to other parts of the State.

To ensure transparency and timely disbursement, a dedicated verification and compensation distribution committee will be constituted.

A panel will oversee case evaluations and facilitate the release of funds to eligible claimants.

The move comes in the wake of a recent Supreme Court directive emphasising stricter control of stray dog populations in urban centres.

Founder's Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CMR Group of Institutions and CMR University marked their 34th Founder's Day celebration on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The event featured the inauguration of a new academic block and the recognition of student excellence through scholarships and awards.

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4:00 PM Onwards
Bengaluru

The Weight Loss Revolution
4:40 PM to 5:30 PM

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Shwetambari Shetty

Shivam Vij

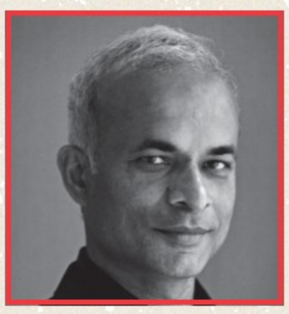
The Flight of Wealth
5:35 PM to 6:25 PM

Sanjaya Baru

Devina Mehra

Narendar Pani

The New Laws of Manu: Why The Poor Don't Kill Us
6:30 PM to 7:20 PM


Manu Joseph

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Govt. completes half term amid tussle over power sharing

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to break Devaraj Urs's record as the longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka if he continues in office till the next Budget; Congress leadership is said to have deferred its decisions related to Karnataka

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete the first half of its term on Thursday amid suspense over the State Cabinet reshuffle and change of leadership.

As both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar were not able to arrive at a consensus on the Cabinet reshuffle and the leadership change, the party high command, which has been in shock after the Bihar poll debacle, is said to have deferred its decisions related to Karnataka.

Earlier this week, Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar went to Delhi to bargain with the party high command on their respective demands of the Cabinet reshuffle and the leadership change.

Guarantees and survey

During its 30-month rule, the Congress dispensation has implemented five guarantee schemes for the welfare of people, especially women, and conducted the much-talked-about Social and Educational Survey. However, the supposed power-sharing pact between the Chief Minister and his deputy gained more traction than its achievements.

Meanwhile, Congress sources told *The Hindu* that neither the Cabinet rejig nor the leadership change are likely to take place at least till the next State budget (2026-27).

If Mr. Siddaramaiah continues to head the government till the next Budget, then he would create a new record as being the longest serving Chief Minister of Karnataka by breaking the record held by the late D. Devaraj Urs. Urs was Chief Minister twice and spent 2,792 days in office, which is about 7.6 years. Mr. Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, would also be presenting a record 17th State budget next year.

Delhi visits

Earlier this week, both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar went to Delhi to bargain with the party high command on their respective demands of the Cabinet reshuffle and the leadership change. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi passed on the vexed issue to AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, who was unable to arrive at any decisions after a brief huddle with both the leaders.

Mr. Siddaramaiah reportedly placed the demand for the Cabinet reshuffle, stating that the high command suggested undertaking the exercise a few months ago, and he promised to undertake the exercise after the mid-term of the government's term.

Mr. Shivakumar, who is believed to have been making all-out efforts to block the Cabinet reshuffle move, was appealing to the high command to concede his demand for the Chief Minister's post, as per the informal pact agreed upon during the formation of the government in May 2023.

The Chief Minister is expected to spend Thursday in his home district, Mysuru, after participating in the valedictory function of the 72nd All India Co-operative Week in Chamarajanagar.

Survey report impact

As the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission is expected to submit its report on the Social and Educational Survey next month or early next year, and its findings are likely to impact the political dynamics of the State, it would be interesting to see how Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar would navigate political pressure brought on them by their loyalists on the issue of the Cabinet reshuffle and leadership change during the second half of their government's term.

Some work for party, others reap benefits: Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivkumar during an event marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Wednesday hinted that he would not be holding the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president's post permanently and that others would be given the opportunity and expressed confidence that the party would retain power in 2028.

Speaking at a Congress event to mark former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary here, Mr. Shivakumar said, "There are two kinds of people – ones who work and other benefits." He said the late Indira Gandhi had appealed to the party workers to belong to the first category.

Six years soon

The KPCC chief said, "I have completed five and a half years as the KPCC president."

He said that he cannot stay in the party post permanently, and someone should be given a chance. But he assured his party colleagues that he will be "in leadership" and "on the front line". Mr Shivakumar would complete six years in the party post in March 2026.

"I had decided to leave the post of KPCC president immediately after becoming Deputy Chief Minister. However, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge had told me to continue as the KPCC president," he said.

During the formation of the government in May 2023, Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal announced that Mr. Shivakumar would head the State unit until the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

100 new offices

Stating that his ambition was to build 100 new party offices during his tenure, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Where there is a will, there is a way. Where there is a devotion (bhakti), there is a god."

Mr. Shivakumar's statement assumed significance as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's loyalists are demanding a new party president. Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, a Nayaka (ST) leader, and Environment and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, a Lingayat, are apparently eyeing the KPCC chief post.

Meanwhile, D.K. Suresh, former MP, declined to comment on the issue of leadership change. "We will talk tomorrow," he told the media.

Surprisingly, Congress MLA (Kunigal) H. D. Ranganath, who was backing Mr. Shivakumar to become the chief minister, said Mr. Siddaramaiah's government is doing good work. "Yes, all is normal and good."

Dharmasthala case: SIT likely to file charge sheet this weekend

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala case is likely to file the charge sheet before the Belthangady court by this weekend, as 90 days will be over by then since it arrested Chinnaiah, complainant in the case, for perjury on August 23.

The High Court on November 12 vacated its interim stay on the investigation granted following a writ petition filed by activists (who are petitioners) Girish Mattennavar, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, T. Jayanth and Vittala Gowda seeking quashing of the case.

A file photo of SIT personnel coming out with skeletal remains seized from Banglagudde area in Dharmasthala.

SIT notices

The writ petition was filed after the SIT issued notices under Section 35(3) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita asking the four activists to appear before it and cooperate with the investigation of the case. While asking SIT to continue with the investigation, Justice Mohammed Nawaz directed the agency not to harass the four petitioners.

Chinniah had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition before the Supreme Court claiming that he was forced to bury many bodies in Dharmasthala village between 1995 and 2014. He wanted the court to issue directions to police to conduct an investigation into the same.

The Division Bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma dismissed the PIL on May 5, 2025. He later filed a complainant before the Dharmasthala police alleging the same. On the order of the Belthangady court, the Dharmasthala police registered his compliant under Section 211(A) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. He then gave voluntary statement before the magistrate under Section 183 of BNSS and produced a skull stating that it was that of a woman.

Skull not of woman

The SIT, which investigated the case, found that the skull produced by Chinnaiah was not of a woman but of a 32-year-old man. Except for partial skeletal remains of male at two places, the SIT did not find skeletal remains from several places that were dug up. Then SIT took permission of the court to add additional Sections 336, 230, 231, 229, 227, 228, 240, 236, 233, and 248 of BNS and arrested Chinniah on August 23.

During his inquiry, Chinnaiah told SIT that he got the skull from the 2012 rape and murder victim Soujanya's uncle Vittala Gowda and his (Mr. Gowda's) brother and he produced the same before the magistrate.

He told the SIT that he gave a false complaint under pressure from Mr. Thimarody and three others. He also mentioned that the statement which he made before the Belthangady court was false and requested for making another statement before the same court. Then the court recorded his voluntary statement under Section 183 of BNSS for the second time.

New revelations

In the written objection to the writ petition filed by Mr. Mattennavar and three others in the High Court, the SIT said Chinnaiah revealed that one of the activists (among those who approached the High Court) was involved in a murder. In addition, Chinnaih made many new revelations pointing out at the complexity of activists in the case.

The SIT said that it has meticulously examined every bit of electronic evidence collected from various digital devices, and has obtained the statements of other witnesses, besides obtaining documentary records pertaining to the new claims of Chinnaiah. Only after careful due diligence, the SIT decided to issue notices under Section 35 (3) of BNSS, it told the High Court.

By abusing the process of law, the activist (Mr. Mattennavar) and his associates have seriously damaged their credibility, and their movement to secure justice, the SIT told the High Court.

Mekedatu: State to submit a 'revised' DPR, not fresh one

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar's office has clarified that Karnataka has decided to submit a "revised DPR" (Detailed Project Report) to the Centre with respect to the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project and not a "fresh DPR" as reported in these columns on Tuesday.

In a clarification issued on Wednesday, K. Jayaprakash, technical adviser to the Deputy Chief Minister, said, "Since the earlier DPR submitted to CWC on January 18, 2019, was formulated based on the Scheduled Rates of 2018-19 and the same was not taken up for appraisal by CWC due to administrative and legal constraints, and now the path is clear in the light of the Supreme Court's judgment (November 13, 2025), Karnataka has decided to submit a revised DPR duly updating the cost as per the current Schedule of Rates (2025-26 price level)".

He further clarified that "There is a need to prepare a revised DPR based on the current Scheduled Rates. Though the earlier DPR is still with CWC, it is yet to be subjected to scrutiny, and was based on the old Scheduled rates i.e., that of 2018-19".

The Deputy Chief Minister's office has now made it clear that the DPR had not been rejected.

Corpus fund of ₹1 crore will be set up in KSPCB : Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that a corpus fund of ₹1 crore would be set up in Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

Speaking at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the KSPCB, he said that programmes would be organised every year from the interest earned from this deposit and an award would be instituted in the name of environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka who passed away recently.

Five to be awarded

Mr.Siddaramaiah said that five environmentalists would be awarded annually. He added that the citizens should join hands with the government to make Bengaluru plastic-free by the year 2030.

"Bengaluru city alone generates 900 tonnes of plastic. It can become plastic-free only if only through public awareness and people join hands with the government," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says an award will be instituted in the name of environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka

He said that Bengaluru was often criticised as a garbage city, but the government's goal was to make it garbage-free.

Waste segregation

"People should separate wet and dry waste. Industrialists must ensure that industrial waste does not harm the environment; it is their responsibility," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

The Chief Minister said that according to a Central report, 131 cities in India had pollution levels beyond the permissible limits of which four – Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Davanagere and Kalaburagi – are in Karnataka.

Bengaluru's air quality

"This is a matter of concern. Bengaluru may soon become a city unfit for living if this continues," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said that with the KSPCB celebrating its 50th anniversary it should make a commitment to make 50 wards in Bengaluru free of single-use plastic, and citizens should cooperate in this.

'Varsities should not become sectarian in the name of freedom'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Writer and intellectual Prof. Baragur Ramachandrappa has said that no university should become sectarian under the pretext of giving platform to all kinds of thoughts.

Mr. Ramachandrappa made these remarks, taking part in the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations organised by Kuvempu University at Shankaarghatta on Wednesday, in the light of a controversy over a seminar on "Bhagavad Gita and Prevention of Crime" held on the university campus.

Baragur Ramachandrappa being felicitated during the Kannada Rajyotsava programme at Kuvempu University on Wednesday.

"We should remain open-minded while understanding different ideas. However, when we propagate them, we should have a clear stand," he stated. "We should listen to all. However, people tend to believe lies. Lies sound pleasant to ears, but truth is harsh. We are in the age that demands proof for the truth, but not for lies."

Srikanta Kudige, retired professor of Kannada, said that the seminar on Bhagavad Gita should not have been conducted on the university campus. "There are designated places for such debates. University is not the right place," he said, adding that it would open a Pandora's box where other faiths might also demand space for debate on similar lines. "There are far more important issues that need to be addressed as priority," he told Kuvempu University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sharath Ananthamurthy, who chaired the programme.

A seminar on "Bhagavad Gita and Prevention of Crime" was held on the university campus on Tuesday, in association with Swarnarashmi Trust of Shivamogga and Bhagavad Gita Abhiyana Samiti. The activists of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti had staged a protest opposing the seminar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

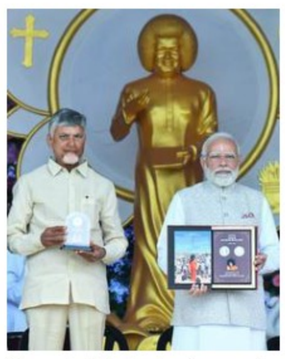
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that my clients Mr. M. Srinivasan, Son of late Muthusamy Gounder and Ms. Savera Srinivasan, Daughter of Mr. M. Srinivasan, both are residing at No.175, GEAR Road, Doddakannelli, Bengaluru – 560035, have lost / misplaced the following ORIGINAL Deeds/title documents, all pertaining to lands situated at Bhodanahosahalli and Hemmandahalli Villages, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Sl.No.	Description of Document
1.	Sale deed dated 15.07.1944, regd. as doc. No. 175/1944-45 in Book-I, Volume-578 at Pages 229 to 230 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by Siddalingappa & Another in favour of Ramaiah, in relation to Sy. Nos.120 &118;
2.	Mortgage Deed dated 17.07.2002, regd. as Doc. No. 935/2002-03 in Book-I, Volume-2412 at Pages 11 to 14, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by Venkatachalaiah and his sons in favour of B.M.Prakash, in relation to Sy. No.120;
3.	Discharge Deed dated 15.03.2004, regd. as Doc. No. HSK-1-04483/2003-04 in Book-I, CD No. HSKD6, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by B.M.Prakash in favour of B.V.Venkatesh and Another, in relation to Sy. No.120;
4.	Sale Deed dated 08.06.2010, regd. as Doc. No. HSK-1-00974/2010-11 in Book-I, CD No. HSKD151, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by B.V.Venkatesh and Ors. in favour of A.M.Rashmi, in relation to Sy. No.120;
5.	Special Power of Attorney dated 25.02.2012, regd. as Doc. No.VRT-4-00402/2011-12 in Book-IV, CD No. VRTD146, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Varthur, executed by Savera Srinivasan in favour of G.K. Narayanaswamy, in relation to Sy. No. 120 and other Sy Nos.;
6.	Sale Deed dated 05.01.2013, regd. as Doc. No. HSK-1-09383/2012-13 in Book-I, CD No. HSKD334, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by B.V. Narayanaswamy and Ors. in favour of T. Kamalapathi, in relation to Sy. No.120/1;
7.	Gift Deed dated 18.05.2009, regd. as Doc. No.965/2009-10 in Book I, CD No. HSKD125, in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by Nanjundappa in favour of Master M Sridhar and Master M Raghav, in relation to Sy. No. 121;
8.	Sale Deed dated 26.05.1960, regd. as Doc. No. 814/1960-61 in Book I, Volume 964, at Pages 246 to 248, in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by B Nagaraj in favour of Bajjappa, in relation to Sy. No. 122/3;
9.	Will dated 20.10.1997, regd. as Doc. No. 96/1997-98 in Book III, Volume 46, at Pages 218 to 219, in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by Bajjappa in favour of Jayamma and Ors. in relation to Sy Nos.123&122/3;
10.	Power of Attorney dated 01.03.2011, regd. as Doc. No.HSK-4-00353/2010-11 in Book-IV, CD No. HSKD181, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Hoskote, executed by K. Nanjanna and Ors. in favour of B.Krishnappa, in relation to Sy. No.53 of Hemmandahalli village.

Despite best efforts, my clients are unable to trace the aforementioned original deeds for which Online Police Complaints have been lodged with the Bangalore City Police on 14/11/2025. general public are hereby notified that in the event any person is in possession/ has found/ discovered the aforementioned original documents, such person/s is hereby requested to return the same to the undersigned, at the below mentioned address.

The general public is hereby further cautioned that whoever is in possession of the above-mentioned original documents, such person/s has no manner of right, title, interest or claim over the said land/s. And if anyone deals with the said person/s regarding the said land/s, such person/s shall be doing so at his/her own peril, risk and consequences and the same shall not be binding on my clients.

Mahanthesh A.M., Advocate,
No.39, 'Shri Henjare' Nilaya, Reddy Layout, Near Yogi Vemanareddy Circle, Veerashettihalli, Bengaluru-560107, Mob: 9980101011



Narendra Modi releasing a coin and stamps in Puttaparthi on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India will become hub of natural farming; science, tradition to lead way: PM

Prime Minister says natural farming is the need of the 21st century, bats for the restoration of soil health; he banks on traditional knowledge, scientific strength and government support for growth

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Green vistas: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi, left, at the inauguration of the South India Natural Farming Summit in Coimbatore on Wednesday. PTI

India is poised to transform into a global hub of natural farming, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Coimbatore on Wednesday, adding that moving on this path, ingrained in the country's traditions, is a necessity.

The Prime Minister said expansion of natural farming is the need of 21st-century agriculture and pitched for the restoration of soil health that has deteriorated due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. "Our goal must be to make natural farming a fully science-backed movement," he said after inaugurating the South India Natural Farming Summit 2025 conducted by farmers' associations to propagate ideals of late organic farming scientist G. Nammalvar.

He said that the trend of educated youth taking up agriculture as a vocation and adopting modern techniques was heartening. Mr. Modi said traditional knowledge, scientific strength and government support will enable India to show the way in natural farming to the world.

The National Mission on Natural Farming initiated last year has had its effect on lakhs of farmers. About 35,000 hectares of land in Tamil Nadu are now under organic and natural farming.

Emphasising on a joint effort, the Prime Minister appealed to the State government to utilise the capabilities of Farmer Producer Organisations to broad-base natural farming, with an emphasis on minor millets.

The Prime Minister urged farmers to start by bringing one acre under natural farming for a cropping season every year, and to scale up gradually. Agricultural exports have doubled in the past 11 years owing to the policies. Assistance exceeding ₹10 lakh crore has been provided under the Kisan Credit Card scheme for farming and allied activities, including livestock and fisheries, and the reduction in GST on bio-fertilizers has benefited farmers substantially, he said.

The Prime Minister released the 21st installment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, transferring ₹18,000 crore to farmers across the country. The beneficiaries include lakhs of farmers in Tamil Nadu. So far, ₹4 lakh crore has been directly transferred to the bank accounts of small farmers under the scheme, he said.

Mr. Modi advocated multi-crop agriculture over monoculture, citing the practice in the hilly areas of Kerala and Karnataka, where the productivity of a cultivable area was being optimised.

He appealed to scientists and research institutions to ensure integration of natural farming in curriculum, and to consider farmers' fields as living laboratories.

Mr. Modi exuded hope that the summit will pave the way for the emergence of new ideas and solutions. He later interacted with a group of agricultural scientists and agriculturists practising natural farming.

Modi releases ₹100 coin and postal stamps in Puttaparthi

K. Umashanker
PUTTAPARTHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a ₹100 commemorative coin and a set of postal stamps at the centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

Addressing a gathering of devotees and students at the Hill View Stadium, the Prime Minister recalled the spiritual leader's decades of humanitarian service and legacy.

Mr. Modi termed the centenary celebrations a blessing for the nation, stating that Sathya Sai Baba's universal message of love, service, and harmony had influenced millions across the globe.

Highlighting the charitable projects of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's organisations, Mr. Modi referred to medical services, drinking water projects spanning more than 3,000 km of pipelines, and relief efforts during the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat in 2001.

KDA chief's remark on Yakshagana artists sparks off a row

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Chairman of Kannada Development Authority and senior writer Purushottama Bilimale has stoked a controversy by stating that homosexuality prevails among Yakshagana artists. He was speaking at a programme at Mysuru University on Tuesday.

Regrets remark

Prof. Bilimale, subsequently, expressed regret over his statement and said that he did not intend to hurt any sentiments.

He added that his words had been quoted out of context, leading to misunderstanding.

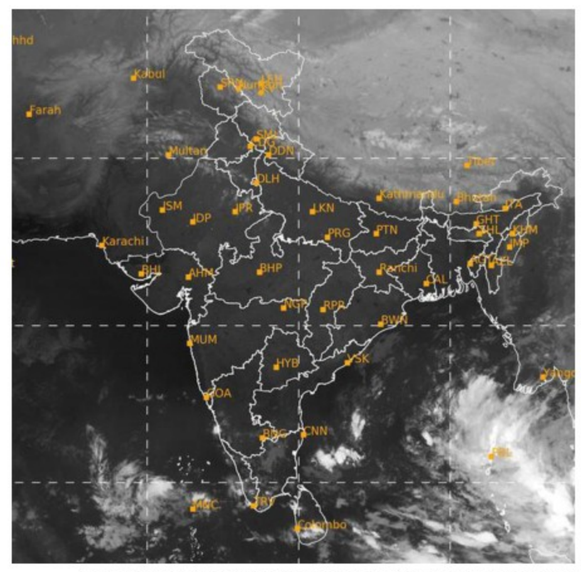
Earlier, after releasing two books of the Prasaranga of the university at Manasagangotri, Prof. Bilimale said that homosexuality is common to Yakshagana troupes who stay away from home for months. He said that "stree veshadharis" (men who don women's roles) are treated badly and exploited.

Reacting to Prof. Bilimale's statement in Udupi on Wednesday, Talluru Shivarama Shetty, chairman, Karnataka Yakshagana Academy, said that the Prof. Bilimale should not have made such a statement.

Speaking to pressperson, Mr. Shetty said that when Yakshagana is in the limelight now, Prof. Bilimale, being a scholar, should have refrained from making such a statement.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over west Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.6	17.4	Kozhikode	3	33.5	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	29.6	14.0	Kurnool	—	32.1	20.0
Aizawl	—	28.8	13.9	Lucknow	—	27.7	13.5
Allahabad	—	28.0	12.5	Madurai	—	33.5	23.1
Bengaluru	—	27.7	19.4	Mangaluru	0.4	32.3	23.9
Bhopal	—	25.6	7.8	Mumbai	—	33.3	16.2
Bhubaneswar	—	31.6	15.2	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.8
Chandigarh	—	27.5	9.8	New Delhi	—	28.3	10.2
Chennai	—	30.8	23.0	Patna	—	28.5	19.6
Coimbatore	—	30.9	21.4	Port Blair	17	26.4	23.0
Dehradun	—	27.0	10.7	Puducherry	—	28.3	22.6
Gangtok	—	20.2	10.0	Pune	—	31.1	14.0
Goa	—	34.7	22.2	Raipur	—	28.4	14.0
Guwahati	—	29.4	15.5	Ranchi	—	27.0	12.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	18.0	Shillong	—	21.3	9.0
Hyderabad	—	29.4	14.3	Shimla	—	21.4	10.2
Imphal	—	27.8	16.7	Srinagar	—	16.3	-1.7
Jaipur	—	27.8	11.8	Thiruvananthapuram	50	31.3	23.7
Kochi	90	31.0	23.6	Tiruchi	—	30.3	22.6
Kohima	—	15.2	10.5	Vijayawada	—	31.2	20.0
Kolkata	—	31.3	17.4	Visakhapatnam	—	30.8	21.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.30	..96	.25	...184	...215	
Bengaluru	.15	..44	.87	.....—	...101	
Chennai	...4	6	.40	81	67	
Delhi	.17	115	104	...458	...475	
Hyderabad	...4	..24	.51	...164	...134	
Kolkata	...2	..59	.10	...248	...176	
Lucknow	...8	..59	.23	...273	...151	
Mumbai	...9	..53	.17	...218	...275	
Pune	.17	..78	.86	...220	...224	
Visakhapatnam	.20	..46	.17	...113	...116	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 422 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka Public Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru-560001
No.: EIC/PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26 Date: 19.11.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short-Term Tender for Twelve Building Works one each in Chitradurga, Kolara, Tumakuru, Chamarajanagara, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Mysuru, Belagavi, Ballari, Kalaburagi, Raichuru and Yadgir Districts. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from **19.11.2025, 05:30 PM** onwards.
DIPR/CP/LC/3898/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development and Port and Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PORT DIVISION, BAITKHOL, KARWAR, UTTAR KANNADA-581302
Phone: 08382-229672 Email: eepdkwr4@gmail.com
NO.EE/PDK/TND/2025-26/753 Date: 17-11-2025
Invitation for tenders (IFT) Tender Notification
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, **"PREPARATION OF DPR FOR THE SHORE PROTECTION WORKS IN UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT AS RECOMMENDED BY SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN KARNATAKA PREPARED BY NCSCM CHENNAI" (Tender Amount Rs.101.70 Lakhs)** Tender is invited in E-Procurement to execute the service. To participate in E-Procurement and for more information may be obtained in (**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) website. Last date for clarification and queries for tender is **29-11-2025 at 4.00 PM** and Last date for Tender Submission is **02-12-2025 at 5.00 PM.** For further extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/728/25-26 Dt.18.11.2025
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Port Division, Karwar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.2, ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಲೋ.ಇ. ಪೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂ: 080 22220227
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 13/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 11–11–2025
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1, ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2 & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರಿಂದ 42 ನೇ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಸತಿಗೃಹಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11.11.2025 ರಿಂದ 21.11.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21.11.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24.11.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನಂ.2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
DIPR/CP/3908/Zen/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri
E-mail : eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel. No.: 08375-232454
E-Tender Notification
This offer letter No. 30/EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-1/Tender/ 2025-26/4678 Dated : 17-11-2025
On 17-11-2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following work Indent No. 20462(2A), 20468, 20469, 20470(2A), 20475(SC), 20476(SC), 20479, 20482, 20483, 20484(CAT-1), 20485, 20486, 20472(SC), 20473, 20474, 29478, 29481(ST), 16401/Call-2. Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : 24-11-2025 (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit http://www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in.
Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
P.R.E. Division, Haveri

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL- BHEL)
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal)
RPCL is invited following tender from eligible contractors through KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the following works.
1) KPCL/2025-26/IND2156 10-11-2025. Procurement of Flexible copper cables. **2) KPCL/2025-26/IND2006 10-11-2025.** Procurement of Flexible & Geared couplings. **3) KPCL/2025-26/IND2161 10-11-2025.** Procurement of Anticorrosive panels. **4) KPCL/2025-26/IND1855 10-11-2025.** Procurement of Couplings at YTPS. **5) KPCL/2025-26/IND2162 10-11-2025.** Procurement of SKF bearing grease LGHP for SKF make. Last date & time for receipt of tender for Sl No. 1 to 5 - 25-11-2015 16:00. For any details and clarifications contact Office of the Executive Engineer (MSP), RTPS, Yermarus Thermal Power Station, Yermarus-584 134, Raichur District, Karnataka State, Mobile : 9480682892.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)
KPTCL invites tenders for the following services:
No: EEE/PDS/2025-26/2968-70 Date: 18.11.2025
1) Providing 2 no's of Housekeeping Services to office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru.
No: EEE/PDS/SO/2025-26/2972-73 Date: 18.11.2025
2) Providing 09 no's of security services to **Projects Stores, KPTCL, Peenya** coming under the jurisdiction of SEE, Tr(P) Urban Circle, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru.
The Tender will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-Procurement process can obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or directly logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after For Sl. No. (1): **21.11.2025** and For Sl. No. (2): **22.11.2025.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Ele.), Projects Division-South, KPTCL, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560009.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ: ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ2.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:37:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.11.2025
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ–04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ)–01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 8046010000, 8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.01ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ: ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.11.2025. ಫ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 28.11.2025. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 04.12.2025 ಸಮಯ 16:00. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: 04.12.2025 ಸಮಯ 17:00. ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 06.12.2025 ಸಮಯ 11:00.
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.05ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ: ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.11.2025. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 27.11.2025 ಸಮಯ 16:00. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: 27.11.2025 ಸಮಯ 17:00. ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 28.11.2025 ಸಮಯ 17:05.
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.02, 03 & 04ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ: ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.11.2025. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 04.12.2025 ಸಮಯ 16:00. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: 04.12.2025 ಸಮಯ 17:00. ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ: 06.12.2025 ಸಮಯ 11:00.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
RO No. 482: DIPR/DVG/KSMCA/2025-26

Department of Mines & Geology
#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-01
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in
No. DMG/MLS/Auction/2025-26 Dated: 19.11.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Department of Mines and Geology is calling tender for auction of old Iron Ore stock lying in the cancelled stock yards and generated Iron Ore Fines at sponge Iron Plant under various notifications through MSTC.
Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Separate Lot wise auction notifications are published in MSTC portal. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process of respective lots shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd.
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp
The auction of old stock for each lot is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron/Manganese ore before participation. The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid.
Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.
Sd/-
DIRECTOR
Department of Mines & Geology
DIPR/CP/3922/AKAR/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION-ZONE-2
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Nanjamba Agrahara, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
No.EE/CRP/PR/408/2025-26 Date: 19.11.2025
CORRIGENDUM
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
Reference:- 1)Tender Notification No. EE/CMP/TEND/E-Proc/10/2025-26, dated: 06/11/2025.
With reference to the above Tender Notifications No: EE/CMP/TEND/E-Proc/10/2025-26, Dated: 06/11/2025 Serial No. 2 (Name of Work: Improvement of traffic junctions along arterial and sub-arterial roads in Chamarajpet Division to reduce congestion, improve airflow and greenery) has been Cancelled due to Administrative reason and further calendar of event will be published/intimated. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, HSR Division, 9th Main, 14th Cross, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560068.
No: BSCC/EE/HD/Tend-02/2025-26 Date: 19-11-2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)
The Executive Engineer, HSR Division, South Zone-2, BSCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BSCC or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / MES / Railways / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements to Existing Asphalted Road by Resurfacing with Proper Camber, Shoulder Formation, side Drain Improvement and Road Safety Measures to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial and Other Important Road Under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP). (Comprising of 3 Works in G.O. BSCC Sl.No. 31, 35, 36) Package No. CSSIP-BH 01. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 858.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,87,750.00**
2	Improvements to Existing Asphalted Road by Resurfacing with Proper Camber, Shoulder Formation, side Drain Improvement and Road Safety Measures to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial and Other Important Road Under Capital Support for Special Infra Projects (CSSIP). (Comprising of 3 Works in G.O. BSCC Sl.No. 37, 41, 45) Package No. CSSIP-BH 02. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1264.10, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 18,96,150.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender Document can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24-11-2025. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **25-11-2025 at 11.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, HSR Division, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068. 3)** Tender must be Submitted online through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 06-12-2025. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division on 08-12-2025 after 11.30 Hours onwards.** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, HSR Division, BSCC.

Breaking the rules

Post-facto clearance must remain the exception, not the rule

The majority decision by a Bench of the Supreme Court to reverse its May 2025 order, which had stayed the grant of post-facto environmental clearances, illustrates the difficulty of dealing with the seemingly irreversible consequences of a much-abused law. The controversy is also about the form of the Environment Ministry's instruments that normalised those exceptions. The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and EIA notifications of 1994 and 2006 are framed around prior environmental clearance (EC), which means that large construction and industrial projects must not start work until an authority has assessed their consequences. Decisions by the Court including *Common Cause* (2017) and *Alembic Pharmaceuticals* (2020) treated post-facto EC as impermissible where prior EC was mandatory. The order in May, in *Vanashakti*, read this as ruling out post-facto ECs altogether for such projects. The new majority does not say 'EC first' is no longer the rule but locates a narrow space for post-facto clearances by relying on *Alembic*, *D. Swamy*, and others to allow 'regularisation' when considerable resources have already been committed, usually with fines. This still means that the Ministry can maintain 'EC first' as the legal default and allow post-facto clearances only in rare, highly constrained cases. In any case the spirit of the EC regime remains *ex ante*.

A clearance granted after construction has begun or finished cannot replicate the EIA's rationale, which is to make environment-related decisions before the potential cumulative consequences are underway. Post-facto clearances can only impose penalties, prescribe mitigation or order closure or demolition. Even if the judiciary permits such ECs in some circumstances now, the clearances will be remedial and sit uneasily with the structure of environmental jurisprudence in India since the 1990s. The majority's concern about differential treatment of past and future violators is also understandable, even if its remedy is not. *Vanashakti* struck down the 2017 notification and subsequent Environment Ministry office memoranda that facilitated post-facto ECs, but it let existing post-facto ECs stand. The majority treated this as discriminatory, which is fair, but unequal treatment during a shift from a permissive to a stricter regime is to be expected during regulatory housekeeping. Its existence does not by itself require that an old route be revived. The Court has also recalled the bar on post-facto ECs and reopened the legal question, indicating that limited post-facto regularisation is not in itself untenable. In the end, the Ministry must treat post-facto ECs as exceptional not least because they are inherently at odds with the legal framework. Any complaint about discrimination between past and future violators should be addressed by tightening legacy clearances, not by normalising post-facto regularisation.

Reset with Riyadh

U.S. seems to have de-hyphenated Saudi Arabia and Israel in its West Asia plans

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's visit to the White House marked the official end of a brief chill in relations between the most powerful country and the most influential Arab state. Ties had hit a low after Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident journalist in the U.S., was murdered inside the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. U.S. intelligence agencies later concluded that MBS had ordered the killing. During his election campaign, Joe Biden had vowed to hold MBS accountable. Yet, it was Mr. Biden who took steps to rehabilitate the prince. He travelled to Jeddah in July 2022 where he greeted the heir to the Saudi throne with a fist bump. Donald Trump, who brokered the 2020 Abraham Accords, has been keen to deepen America's traditional ties with its Arab partners. On Tuesday, he defended MBS's human rights record, claiming that the prince "knew nothing" about Khashoggi's murder. He also promised to sell tanks and F-35 fighters to Saudi Arabia, despite Israel's objections. It will also get access to America's most advanced computer chips. MBS is seeking to build vast data centres to transform Saudi Arabia into a technological power house.

Historically, Saudi Arabia's abysmal human rights record has played little role in shaping its relationship with Washington, long anchored in geopolitical and energy interests. There have been moments of strain, such as the 1973 oil shock, the post-9/11 distrust or the chill after the Khashoggi murder, but both sides have consistently prioritised strategic alignment over values. One persistent complication, however, has been Israel, America's closest regional ally, which does not have formal diplomatic ties with Riyadh. After the Abraham Accords were signed, the Biden administration pushed Saudi Arabia to join the framework by normalising ties with Israel. MBS had said in September 2023 that Saudi Arabia and Israel were in an advanced stage of negotiations. But the October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's genocidal Gaza war halted the momentum. Today, Saudi Arabia says it remains open to joining the Accords, but only if there is a credible, time-bound path towards a two-state solution to the Palestine question – a position Israel opposes. Mr. Trump appears to have realised both the regional complexities and Israel's intransigence. He now seems prepared to deepen ties with Saudi Arabia without demanding an immediate commitment to recognise Israel. In effect, he has dehyphenated Saudi Arabia from the Abraham Accords, for now, choosing instead to cultivate direct, stronger ties with the kingdom, which he views as central to his broader West Asia plans.

Recognise the critical role of the childcare worker

Nitya Rao

is Professor, School of Global Development, University of East Anglia, U.K.

On July 24, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare October 29 each year as International Day of Care and Support. This resolution recognised the critical role of comprehensive care and support policies, aimed at reducing, redistributing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work, to the well-being of society and all its members – in particular, children, older persons and persons with disabilities – more so, as a disproportionate share of care and domestic work is undertaken by women and adolescent girls. It also remains invisible, undervalued and unaccounted for in national statistics, and neglected in economic and social policymaking.

India has had a long history of care provision with institutions outside the family emerging in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the work of educationists such as Tarabai Modak and Gijubai Badheka. These pioneering efforts, with developmentally appropriate practices, gradually declined as modern childcare provisioning emerged post-Independence. With modern childcare mostly in the private, voluntary sector, low-income families, those who needed childcare services the most, were excluded.

The report of the study group on the development of the preschool child, submitted to the Government of India in 1972, with Mina Swaminathan as its convenor, transformed the history of childcare services in the country. It set out a clear social justice agenda, emphasising a holistic approach to address the health, nutrition and developmental needs of the young child, especially from poor and marginalised communities.

This resulted in the launch of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) in 1975. It is one of the world's largest early childhood development programmes today, with 1.4 million Anganwadi (childcare) centres operating across the country, reaching 23 million children, and serviced by around 2.4 million Anganwadi workers and helpers. Based on estimated population projections, and the need to reach over 60 million children by 2030, this number is likely to almost double to 2.6 million centres with over five million workers.

Underpaid and undervalued

As several national and global studies have revealed, despite recognising the importance of care for societal growth and well-being, care-workers have remained underpaid and undervalued, and their contributions to the early development of the child not fully recognised. The pressure on the ICDS to rapidly expand to ensure universal coverage has led to a lower emphasis on pre-service and in-service training to build competencies of the care-workers in practice-based learning, that is crucial for quality childcare. This is partly driven by the perception of early years teachers as carers, addressing primary needs of food, hygiene and immunisation, not as professionals. The devaluation of their roles, of not being treated as professional workers, results not just in low pay but also a lack of attention to working conditions (including paid leave), social security benefits, opportunities for career advancement, and collective organisation and representation. In many States, their wages, in the range of ₹8,000-₹15,000 a month, are barely on a par with the minimum wages for unskilled workers.

The childcare worker in India needs better policies, decent wages and working conditions, and a strengthened care infrastructure

The impact of climate change

In the context of climate change, the need for good quality childcare services for the rural and urban poor is rapidly rising. There is sufficient evidence to show that poor women and children are the worst affected by the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, such as floods or droughts. They confront reduced access to health and care services, alongside diverse and healthy food. While the Sustainable Development Goals suggest the need for a more equal sharing of care responsibilities between women and men in households, climate change is forcing many men to migrate out of their rural homes to urban centres in search of work.

Apart from their own dire circumstances, as witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic in India, their physical absence makes such sharing impossible. When families migrate to urban areas, the higher costs of living – in particular rentals – make it imperative for women to find work too, which is often domestic and care work in the homes of the middle classes. There is, however, little care provision for their own children, with only 10% of Anganwadi centres currently functioning in urban areas.

The Government of India's Time Use in India 2024 survey confirms the feminisation of care-work, with women spending an average of 426 minutes a day (over seven hours) on unpaid domestic and care work as against 163 minutes (over two hours) by men (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation). Together, this would constitute 15%-17% of GDP. Smaller scale studies demonstrate clear links between the mother's lack of time for care and feeding and child undernutrition, as visible in the persistently high child stunting levels at over 35%. Only 11% of children aged six months-23 months had a minimum acceptable diet (National Family Health Survey 5, 2019-21), raising cognitive and developmental concerns.

In this context, Mobile Creches and the Forum for Creches and Childcare Services (FORCES) organised the India Childcare Champion Awards on October 28, 2025 in New Delhi. The awards were presented across seven categories that honoured excellence and dedication in the field of childcare – the Mina Swaminathan Special Jury Award for Best Creche Worker, Best Creche Worker, Best Creche Supervisor, Best Local Leader, Best NGO, Childcare Champion, and Gratitude to CSR Funders in Childcare. The awards sought to give recognition to frontline childcare workers and supervisors as well as local panchayat leaders, employers and civil society organisations. It was to celebrate their tireless efforts working on the ground, within communities, and at the policy level to make quality childcare accessible and equitable for all.

The event gave voice to childcare workers, bringing out clearly not just the fact that these workers were skilled professionals but that they were also change-makers, challenging social norms and structures. The workers spoke about breaking caste and class barriers, building self-confidence to overcome social stigma and dealing with critiques of themselves by their families and communities, as working with 'dirty' children.

Slowly, but surely, they have built trust with parents and emotional bonds with the children, hoping to give them a chance in life that they would not otherwise have. Caring for the children of migrant workers is even more demanding as the parents work full-time, often living in poor conditions. Children here confront a range of health issues, so care-workers have, in addition, become advocates for health insurance, for clean and adequate space and care infrastructure, amongst others. They play multiple roles – as children playing with children, as carers nurturing them, and as adult decision-makers, monitoring their key milestones, and intervening when needed.

Match the standard in Scandinavia

Recognition of childcare workers is clearly a first step in highlighting their critical role in providing quality, nurturing care, and laying the foundation for a strong and inclusive nation. Yet, there is a lot more to do – apart from ensuring that they have decent wages and working conditions, there is a need to redirect resources to both skill-building of these care-workers and the strengthening of care infrastructure. There is still little provision for the child below the age of three years, with only 2,500 of the over 10,000 crèches approved under the Government of India's Palna Scheme, currently operational. As compared to the current public investment of approximately 0.4% of GDP, the ambitions of universalising good quality care would need a tripling of budgetary allocation to between 1%-1.5% of GDP – the standard in Scandinavian countries that have universal childcare coverage.

A focus on care spotlights the rights of women and children. Achieving this requires both individual and systemic changes. Recognition of the knowledge and skills of childcare workers has to be accompanied by rules and policies that ensure adequate resources and voice to the sector. Decentralisation, convergence and collective ownership are critical if the rights of women workers and underprivileged children are to be realised.

Redefining the narrative of TB eradication worldwide

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

is former Chief Scientist, World Health Organization

Looking back at the history of tuberculosis (TB) control, one small yet revolutionary change stands out – the development of point-of-care molecular diagnostics. Traditionally, TB diagnosis involved either a poorly sensitive sputum smear test or waiting for weeks for culture results from centralised labs. However, with small, battery-powered Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machines, both TB and drug-resistance can now be diagnosed in under an hour.

A diagnostics game changer

World Health Organization (WHO)-approved rapid molecular diagnostic platforms such as Truenat are now a cornerstone of the worldwide fight against TB, particularly in low-resource settings. For instance, after integrating it with the Nigerian national TB programme, the identification of rifampicin-resistant TB cases nearly doubled, which was an indicator of the platform's ability to detect drug-resistant strains. In addition, Nigeria has experimented with stool-based Truenat testing for the diagnosis of TB among children in primary health-care centres. This is intended to overcome the challenge of sputum collection among children, thus improving case detection and bacteriological confirmation.

A study conducted recently and published in *The Lancet* assessed the use of this platform in primary health-care centres in Mozambique and Tanzania, in Africa. The trial revealed that combining on-site molecular testing with rapid communication of results greatly improved the rate at which patients began treatment within seven days of their initial visit. The intervention not only improved diagnostic quality but also optimised treatment, proving the instrumental role of point-of-care diagnostics in improved TB care in resource-constrained environments. Such innovations are critical to the achievement of global TB elimination targets.

This shift in diagnostic capacity did not merely alter the rhythm of TB control. It became the basis for a world where early treatment was no longer a function of geography or infrastructure.

This year's Kochon Prize highlights how India is creating scalable solutions that can transform global health equity

It was this very shift that was recognised globally this year, when Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics was awarded the coveted Kochon Prize for its contributions to TB diagnostics. Established by the Kochon Foundation of the Republic of Korea and in collaboration with the Stop TB Partnership, the Kochon Prize is one of the world's most distinguished awards for TB control contributions. It has honoured scientists, organisations and individuals whose innovations have radically enhanced TB outcomes. The real value of this award transcends any single company. This year's award says a lot about the extent to which India's indigenous technological innovations are not just fighting TB within its own geography but also significantly influencing the world of TB eradication.

This writer recalls WHO's endorsement, in 2020, of the portable molecular platform developed in India. The evidence came from diverse studies in Asia and Africa, showing an impact equivalent to central-lab systems but with significantly greater deploy-ability. The excitement was palpable – at last, a diagnostic test that could go to the patient, not the other way around. It was a moment when innovation met inclusion. Since then, many more Indian companies have ventured into TB diagnostics innovation, which is visible today in the range of improved point of care tests available.

India's role in decentralised TB control

India's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) was swift in adopting these technologies, installing thousands of point-of-care molecular testing units across the country. Today, we have enough and more evidence of how this has significantly reduced the time between suspecting TB and starting treatment, thereby greatly enhancing TB management protocols.

This award also highlights India's collaborative model for TB elimination. Today, the TB fight is no longer solely the responsibility of the public sector. It is a shared mission, where private innovators, community health workers and government systems work hand-in-hand. For a country that bears close to a quarter of the world's TB burden, this partnership is not only desirable, it is imperative. The private sector offers agility, scale and technology while the public sector offers reach, data and accountability. Together, they create the foundation of a strong public health response.

The Kochon prize has been awarded to India twice – in 2006 to Dr. L.S. Chauhan, Deputy Director General-Tuberculosis, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (joint winner with TB/HIV activist Winstone Zulu from Zambia), and in 2017 to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). This year's recognition is not just another win for India. It is a global acknowledgement of the power of affordable indigenous innovation.

The adoption of field-ready molecular diagnostics from India has led to deployments worldwide – from mobile clinics in sub-Saharan Africa to refugee camps in Eastern Europe. It proves that India can be at the forefront of innovation, creating scalable solutions that can transform global health equity.

But the fight against TB is not done yet. The next challenge lies in ensuring that such diagnostics are accompanied by balanced access to treatment, nutrition, social protection and reduction of stigma. Studies have established that malnutrition accounts for about 40% of TB in India. The battle against TB will have to address all of these determinants in order to succeed.

A call for continued investment, innovation

We stand at a critical juncture. While the recognition of innovations such as point-of-care diagnostics is heartening, we must not lose sight of the bigger picture: TB is a disease of inequality.

We must continue investing in innovations that integrate diagnostics with nutrition, contact tracing, digital adherence and vaccines. Only then can we ensure that no one is left behind in this global effort to eliminate TB.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR work

I strongly feel that carrying out the job of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls can be assigned to unemployed graduates and postgraduates across Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu, "SIR work preventing completion of syllabus for half-yearly exam: teachers", November 19). This is germane for other States too. Those who do the work can be given reasonable remuneration and also a certificate which will enhance their job prospects. The Centre and the State government concerned can work out the financial implication of this plan. The sustained creation of jobs is vital to make the nation a 'developed' one.

S. Ramakrishnasayee,
Chennai

Writing today

Writers face challenges in penning their views, as the principle of free expression, which is a fundamental right, is often constrained by political pressures and social backlash. This environment of intolerance creates a chilling effect, forcing writers to choose "self-censoring" to avoid personal risks (Open Page, November 16). The rise of digital media has amplified the risk of online abuse. Women journalists often face gendered online threats. The challenge for modern-day writers lies in navigating a complex landscape.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Hidden cost of polluted groundwater

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On a sweltering afternoon in Punjab, a farmer lowers his bucket into the well that has sustained his family for generations. The water looks clear, but tests reveal a different story: uranium levels far above the permissible limit. In nearby villages, children suffer skeletal deformities from fluoride-laced groundwater, while families spend what little they earn on hospital visits. What is happening here is not just a public health tragedy; it is an economic calamity unfolding silently beneath our feet.

The latest Annual Groundwater Quality Report (2024) paints a grim picture. Nearly one-fifth of samples from over 440 districts exceed safe contamination limits. In Punjab, almost a third show uranium above permissible levels, with fluoride, nitrate, and arsenic also widespread. India's dependence on groundwater, with 600 million people relying on it for drinking and most irrigation, makes this a national crisis.

The World Bank estimates that environmental degradation, largely from polluted water and soil, drains India of nearly 80 billion dollars each year, around 6% of GDP. Health costs from unsafe water run into billions annually, while waterborne diseases result in millions of lost working days.

People at risk

The link between contamination and human capital loss is especially alarming. In Gujarat's Mehsana district, fluorosis has disabled workers, reduced their earning capacity, and plunged households into cycles of wage loss and medical bills. Across the country, diarrhoeal illnesses still kill hundreds of thousands of children under five each year. Beyond these health tragedies, the consequences represent a steady erosion of India's most valuable resource: its people.

Agriculture, which employs over 40% of Indians, is also under siege. Soil degradation affects nearly a third of the country's land, with polluted irrigation water accelerating the decline. Heavy metals and residues in groundwater reduce yields and accumulate in crops. Research shows that farms near polluted stretches of water experience a drop in productivity and income.

The risks extend beyond village boundaries. Contamination undermines not only the quantity but also the quality of crops. International buyers are increasingly demanding traceability and safety standards, and instances of export rejections over contamination concerns highlight the dangers of complacency. If such problems spread to staples such as rice, vegetables, or fruits, India's $50-billion agricultural export sector could face serious losses.

Groundwater contamination also deepens inequality. Wealthier households can buy bottled water or invest in filtration systems, but poorer families cannot.
Out-of-pocket expenses already account for most health spending, leaving households with little buffer. In rural areas, dependence on contaminated aquifers traps communities in cycles of ill health, debt, and declining productivity. The damage extends to the next generation, as children growing up with cognitive impairments from arsenic or fluoride exposure face limited prospects for education and employment.

Reckless over-extraction, already more than one and a half times the sustainable limit in Punjab, forces farmers to drill deeper, worsening water quality and increasing fertilizer use, creating a vicious cycle that undermines the long-term viability of agriculture.

Way forward

Yet solutions exist if policymakers act with urgency. First, India needs a nationwide, real-time groundwater monitoring system with open access to data so communities know what they are drinking and irrigating with.

India needs a nationwide, real-time groundwater monitoring system with open access to data so communities know what they are drinking and irrigating with

Second, enforcement against industrial effluents and untreated sewage must be strengthened; the current weak framework effectively allows industries to pass the costs onto society. Third, agricultural policy must shift away from input subsidies that encourage chemical overuse, towards incentives for crop diversification, organic practices, and micro-irrigation. Fourth, decentralised treatment systems, from community water filters to low-cost purification units, can provide immediate relief to affected villages.

In Nalgonda district, Telangana, community water purification units have provided safe drinking water to villages long plagued by fluorosis, leading to a measurable decline in new cases among children. In Punjab and Haryana, pilot programmes promoting diversification away from water-intensive paddy to pulses and maize have reduced pressure on aquifers, lowered chemical use, and maintained farmer incomes. These successes show that locally tailored interventions can deliver results while broader reforms are implemented.

Finally, stricter export quality checks and farmer training are needed to safeguard India's reputation in global markets.

Groundwater contamination is not a marginal issue but a hidden economic drain. Unlike water scarcity, which can sometimes be reversed, contamination is often permanent. India faces a choice: continue treating contamination as invisible, allowing short-term gains to impose massive long-term losses, or recognise it as one of the country's most urgent challenges. To sustain growth and secure its future, India must act decisively.

The poison beneath our feet has been ignored too long. Delay will only raise the price.
Half-measures are no longer enough; only bold, coordinated action can prevent this crisis from becoming a national catastrophe.

Views expressed are personal

Metro Rail projects ride into political row

Centre's refusal to clear the Metro projects triggers a political clash in Tamil Nadu

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
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The Union government's rejection of the Metro Rail projects for Coimbatore and Madurai has provided the ground for yet another fierce political battle between the ruling DMK-led front and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling party at the Centre.

Citing one of the norms stipulated in the 2017 Metro Rail Policy – that a city must have a population of at least two million to qualify for a mass transit system such as Metro Rail – the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in its November 14 communication to the Tamil Nadu government, referred to 2011 Census data showing Coimbatore's population at 1.58 million and Madurai's at 1.5 million as the basis for its decision. Returning detailed project reports for the two cities, the Ministry stated that "the Metro projects are cost-intensive and should be planned carefully for long-term sustainability." It suggested other cost-effective urban transport systems, including the Bus Rapid Transit System.

The State government had followed the Union Ministry's guidelines while commissioning feasibility studies for the Mass Rapid Transit System in Coimbatore, Madurai, and three other tier-II cities in Tamil Nadu. Detailed project reports were eventually prepared by Chennai Metro Rail Limited for Madurai and Coimbatore and sent to the Centre, with a recommendation that the project cost be met under a 50:50 equity sharing basis. While completely elevated, two corridors

have been proposed for nearly 35 kilometre in the case of Coimbatore; the other city is to have an elevated corridor of 26.5 km and an underground corridor of 5.5 km. Each project was estimated to cost around ₹11,000 crore.

Wide outrage

When the communication became public on November 18, it triggered loud protests from the ruling party and its allies. It was left to the BJP and its ally, Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar), to defend the move of the Union government, which was said to have come after 21 months. On Tuesday late evening, the DMK's information technology wing, on X, complained of the Centre's discrimination against Tamil Nadu vis-à-vis a couple of cities in north India, for which the approval had been given in the past despite "not fulfilling" the norm of a two-million population.

Senior BJP leader and legislator of Coimbatore (south), Vanathi Srinivasan, rejected the charge of bias against the State and contended that under the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's reign at the Centre, the State had "received ₹1.5 lakh crore in rail funds, hardly the sign of any anti-Tamil Nadu agenda." She added that the State could resubmit the project proposal, "using urban agglomeration data , or give special justification – just as Agra Metro was approved for tourism. Similar precedents exist for Bhopal and Patna." The TMC(M)'s chief and former Union Minister G.K. Vasan expressed hope that the projects would take off in the future.

On Wednesday morning, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, in a post on X, accused the BJP-led government of using "flimsy grounds" to deny the Metro Rail projects for the "Temple City" Madurai and "South India's Manchester" Coimbatore. The BJP's ally in the State, the AIADMK, known for its strong base in Coimbatore and other western districts of the State, chose not to join the debate directly. However, its general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, in a representation submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was coincidentally in Coimbatore on Wednesday to attend a farmers' meet, appealed to the Centre to expedite the implementation of the Metro Rail projects. The AIADMK's IT wing reposted a statement issued by the BJP's State unit. The national party had explained that the Centre had "returned" the metro proposals, asking for basic clarifications. A similar process was followed for metro extension projects in Bengaluru, in addition to Agra and Patna, the BJP added.

Even though the DMK and BJP find fault with each other over the present fate of the project proposals, they, however, sound optimistic about making the projects a reality. It remains to be seen how they are going to accomplish it, but what is certain is that the Coimbatore and Madurai Metro Rail projects will get featured in election manifestos of all major parties when Tamil Nadu goes to the polls in April-May.

How welfare delivery shaped, but did not decide, Bihar's elections

The Bihar verdict reflects how widespread welfare delivery, clear credit attribution, and powerful job promises shaped voter choices

DATA POINT

Vibha Attri

The 2025 Bihar Assembly elections delivered a result many had expected, but the intensity of the victory surprised several observers. Caste alignments and alliance partners continued to matter, yet welfare delivery emerged as a central, though not exclusive, factor shaping the verdict.

The National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) governance record and leadership, combined with the well-timed and highly visible rollout of welfare schemes, blurred the line between routine governance and election-focused initiatives. Evidence from a post-poll survey conducted by PollsMap reinforces this: welfare schemes in Bihar reached people on an impressive scale, and voters knew whom to credit, shaping their political perceptions and choices.

Welfare penetration

Welfare penetration during the Janata Dal (United)-led government was extensive. Going by survey responses, more than four-fifths of households benefited from the Har Ghar Bijli Yojana, and nearly seven in ten received support from the Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal Yojana. Women-focused initiatives also reached a large number of households. Roughly one-third of households benefited from the Balika Poshak Yojana, which provides school uniforms for girls, and about one-fifth availed the Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana, offering a monthly allowance of ₹1,000 for unemployed youth seeking work.

A key political turning point in this election was the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, launched shortly before the election, which provided a direct cash transfer of ₹10,000 to women. Nearly three in five respondents reported that they or someone in their household had benefited from this scheme, highlighting its rapid and widespread reach. Beyond the immediate financial support, the scheme also reminded voters of Nitish Kumar's long record of working for women through education support, bicycles, and other programmes. This mix of new and past benefits strengthened support, especially among women, for the ruling alliance.

People's verdict: A view of Nitish Kumar's poster thanking the people after the NDA's massive victory in the Bihar Assembly election, in Patna on Monday. ANI

Survey findings also indicated that the reach of these schemes was broad. Beneficiaries were spread across marginalised communities, rural households, and low-income groups, showing that the distribution was widespread.

Credit attribution

Crucially, what strengthened the ruling NDA alliance even further was the clarity of credit attribution. Around seven in ten beneficiaries attributed the schemes to the State government, while about a quarter assigned credit to the Union government. Importantly, credit given to the Centre did not result in any political loss, since the JD(U) was part of the NDA at both the State and central levels. This clarity of credit sharply enhanced the ruling coalition's political advantage from welfare delivery.

The data reveal an association between benefiting from schemes and voting behaviour. Beneficiaries of all the schemes showed higher support for the NDA compared to non-beneficiaries. The effect was especially pronounced in schemes with the highest reach.

For the Mahila Rojgar Yojana (57% beneficiaries), 54% of beneficiaries voted for the NDA, compared with 35% of non-beneficiaries – an exceptionally large 19-percentage point advantage. For Har Ghar Bijli (83% beneficiaries), 49% of beneficiaries supported the NDA versus 34% of non-beneficiaries – a 15-point advantage.

For Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal (69% beneficiaries), 51% of beneficiaries backed the NDA compared with 37% of non-beneficiaries – a 14-point advantage.

Future promises

Beyond existing welfare schemes, voters' choices were also shaped by promises of future benefits, which likely functioned as prospective welfare initiatives. Survey data show that Tejashwi Yadav's promise of one government job per household influenced a substantial portion of respondents, with one-third (36%) reporting it affected their vote 'a lot' and another 23% saying 'somewhat'.

Mr. Tejashwi's job promise resonated across caste groups. While majorities of *Mahagatbandhan*'s (MGB) core supporters – Yadavs (52%) and Muslims (60%) – said it influenced their vote 'a lot', significant shares of other communities were also affected: over a quarter of Kurmi-Koeri and other OBC voters, and three in ten Dalits, reported strong influence of this promise on their vote choice.

Although a smaller share, 13% of upper-caste voters also said the promise influenced their voting decision 'a lot'.

Among those highly influenced by this promise, nearly two-thirds (62%) voted for the MGB, while about one-fourth backed the NDA. As the influence of the promise weakened, the MGB's support declined and NDA support rose, peaking among those who said the promise did not influence at all.

Caste-wise, 86% of Yadavs and 75% of Muslims, for whom the promise had a strong impact, voted for the MGB. Among non-M-Y communities, 22% of Kurmis and Koeris, and nearly half of Dalits who strongly felt about the promise, also supported the alliance. This shows that the promise not only reinforced the core support but also attracted some support from beyond it.

Similarly, the JD(U)'s commitment to create one crore government jobs for youth resonated strongly, influencing six of every ten respondents (28% 'a lot' and 32% 'somewhat'). These findings indicate that even as voters evaluated existing schemes, aspirational promises played a complementary role, reinforcing the ruling alliance's broader appeal.

Among voters who said JD(U)'s employment promise mattered 'a lot', a little over three-fifths voted for the NDA, while about one-fifth supported the MGB. The NDA support declined modestly as the influence decreased, though not nearly as steeply as the drop in MGB support across the categories of Mr. Tejashwi's promise. This suggests that while Mr. Tejashwi's promise mobilised MGB-leaning voters, the JD(U)'s promise helped consolidate the NDA's base.

The welfare paradox

Just over half (53%) felt that government schemes were merely election-time freebies that did little to change people's lives, while nearly four in ten (37%) viewed them as a right of a citizen. And yet, they admit having benefited from the schemes. Views on pre-election cash transfers were even more critical: over 70% believed that giving money just before voting is wrong, while only about one-fifth saw nothing wrong with it.

Yet, when we examine actual voting patterns, the impact of these schemes becomes apparent. Among those who saw welfare as election-time freebies, a majority still voted for the parties delivering them: 34% backed the MGB and 54% supported the NDA. Those who considered welfare a citizen's right were slightly more evenly split, with 39% voting for the MGB and 41% for the NDA. This suggests that even voters with a critical or realistic understanding of the political purpose behind welfare measures were often persuaded to support the parties implementing them. This contradiction is also visible in the case of the ₹10,000 Mahila Rojgar Yojana. Sixty-nine percent of its beneficiaries believed that pre-election transfers were wrong, suggesting that while they benefited, they were aware of the political intent behind their timing.

Non-beneficiaries expressed similar views, indicating that concerns about electoral manipulation extended across groups regardless of personal gain.

Proper implementation of a few key schemes added an important layer to the dynamics of the 2025 Bihar election. While it was not the only factor behind the NDA's victory, effective welfare delivery strengthened the ruling side's position. Even where voters questioned the timing or intent of new announcements, they still recognised benefits that reached them. This wide reach and clear credit attribution helped reinforce existing political support, contributing to the NDA's victory.

Vibha Attri is a researcher at Lokniti. Views expressed are personal

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 20, 1975

FBI told Dr. King to commit suicide

Washington, November 19: Shortly before he was awarded the Nobel Prize, Dr. Martin Luther King received an anonymous letter written by the Federal Bureau of Investigation suggesting that he commit suicide or be exposed.

The partial contents of the letter to Dr. King were released yesterday by the Senate Intelligence Committee during a public hearing on FBI domestic intelligence programmes.

"There is only one thing left to do and you know it," the letter said. "There only are 34 days left to do it and you know it must be done".

The Committee counsel Mr. Fred Schwartz, was interrupted at this point by Chairman Frank Church: "This was suggesting suicide?"

"Yes, sir." Mr. Schwartz replied.

Neither Mr. Schwartz nor Mr. Church gave any information as to the material the letter threatened to expose about Dr. King.

Mr. Schwartz said a draft of the letter was found in the file of the former Deputy FBI Director Mr. William Sullivan.

"He claims he did not write it, but that it was a plant by someone else in the FBI," Mr. Schwartz said. He said that copies were received by both Dr. King and his wife.

The letters were part of a concentrated effort by the FBI to discredit Dr. King, who was described in a 1962 memo by the late J. Edgar Hoover, former FBI director, as "No good."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 20, 1925

Passengers' day

Bombay, November 20: This morning's papers are coming out with editorials and leaders' messages on the Passengers' Day, describing the intolerable woes of railway passengers in India. Mrs. Naidu states: "Only those who, through necessity, or choice, or as in my case now and then for the sake of personal experience and observation, travel in the crowded boxes known as third-class carriages, can realise the injustice of combining the maximum profit to the Railways with the maximum discomfort to the traveller." Hakim Ajmal Khan says: "Substantial and useful service to third-class passengers can be accomplished only if the Railway authorities take a genuine interest in the humanitarian object of the Association."

From Page One

India's Russian oil cuts predate U.S. tariffs: data

"The Trump tariffs had come during that time," the official said. "Yes, they are a factor to be kept in mind, but they are not driving Indian policies."

Since the 50% tariffs were imposed, U.S. President Donald Trump has been repeatedly claiming that India will be cutting its imports of Russian oil, something the Indian government has neither confirmed nor denied.

Separately, formal trade talks between India and the U.S. have resumed after a brief hiatus, with statements again being made about tranche one of a Bilateral Trade Agreement expected to be concluded "soon".

Several Indian Ministers have asserted that India will make its energy import decisions as per its needs and best interests, and not under duress.

The reduction of Russian oil is not just in absolute terms, but also in terms of its share in India's total oil imports. Russian oil accounted for about 41% of India's total oil imports in September 2024, which came down to 31% by September 2025. However, rather than a one-off, the data confirm that this is part of a longer process.

Russia's share in India's oil imports grew from 1.6% in 2020-21 to 2% in 2021-22, before jumping to 19% in 2022-23, 33.4% in 2023-24, and 35.1% in 2024-25. The first six months of 2025-26 had, however, snapped this four-year increasing trend, with Russia's share falling to 32.3% in the April-September period.

Diversified imports

Russia's war in Ukraine, the resultant sanctions on it by the U.S. and Europe, and the discounts it provided India resulted in a significant shift in India's oil import basket for a few years after the war started, with an increasing dependence on Russia.

Some of that is now reversing itself as India has started shifting away from Russian oil. In 2021-22, the U.S. accounted for 9.2% of India's oil imports and the UAE accounted for 12.4%. This was when Russia accounted for only 2% of India's oil imports. By 2024-25, Russia accounted for 35.1% of India's oil, while the shares of the U.S. and the UAE had fallen to 4.6% and 9.7%, respectively.

In the first six months of 2025-26, the U.S. share has once again increased to 8% and that of the UAE to 11.7%, even as Russia's share has fallen to 32.3%.

Nitish to be sworn in as Bihar CM for 10th time

All the top leaders of the NDA constituents, including Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief Upendra Kushwaha and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) founder Jitan Ram Manjhi and his party president Santosh Kumar Suman, were present.

Mr. Choudhary proposed Mr. Kumar's name, and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan called for a show of hands, leading to Mr. Kumar's unanimous election.

Following this, Mr. Kumar and other NDA leaders visited Raj Bhavan, where he submitted his resignation as head of the outgoing government to Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and staked claim to form the new government by presenting the list of NDA MLAs. The Governor accepted his resignation and requested him to continue as acting Chief Minister until the new government is sworn in.

The oath-taking ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. on November 20 at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, BJP chief J.P. Nadda, and several other dignitaries.

SC scraps provisions of Tribunal Reforms Act

The two- Judge Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, and comprising Justice K. Vinod Chandran directed the Centre to establish the National Tribunal Commission in four months. It held that the commission was sorely needed as an "essential structural safeguard" to ensure independence, transparency, and uniformity in the functioning, appointment procedure, and administration of tribunals. The Chief Justice termed the 2021 law a "repackaged version" of the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance. The law was enacted just days after the ordinance was struck down by the Supreme Court in a July 2021 judgment.

Justice Chandran separately added that the 2021 Act was "old wine in a new bottle, the wine whets not the judicial palate, but the bottle merely dazzles". The Bench said that Parliament had "ignored" the defects that the court pointed out in the ordinance, and blithely transferred its provisions in a slightly altered form to the 2021 Act.

Chief Justice Gavai concluded the Act was nothing but a "legislative override" of the binding Supreme Court judgment of 2021. The CJI dismissed the Centre's argument, presented by Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, that Parliament had "discretion to ignore the decisions of the Supreme Court". Noting that judicial review of laws is a basic feature of the Constitution, the CJI said that by bringing the 2021 Act, Parliament and the Centre had brushed aside the supremacy of the Constitution. The Bench quoted B.R. Ambedkar, who said that "if the executive is honest in working the Constitution, it must act in accordance with the judicial decisions given by the Supreme Court".

SC declines quota for promotee judges in HJS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to grant a quota for promotee judges in the Higher Judicial Service (HJS), saying perceived discontentment and heartburn without something more in the form of a legal claim or even a legitimate expectation cannot result in creating an artificial classification of members within a cadre.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai said fixation in the Selection Grade and Super Time Scale within the HJS is based on merit-cum-seniority within the cadre, and cannot depend on the length of service or performance in the lower rungs of the judiciary.

The court issued guidelines for the filling up of the district judge posts and said the seniority of officers within the HJS should be determined through an annual four-point roster, filled by officers appointed in the particular year in the repeating sequence of two regular promotees, one promoted through Limited Departmental Competitive Examinations and one direct recruit.

Seven Maoists, including 3 women, killed in A.P.

Tech Shankar, a specialist in technical operations, was among those slain, say police; encounter came a day after Maoist commander Madvi Hidma and five others were killed in the same district

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

Seven Maoists were killed in an encounter with the police in the Maredumilli forests of Alluri Sitarama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh early on Wednesday.

This is the second encounter in the past 24 hours in the forests near G.M. Valasa of the same district.

Metturi Joga Rao, alias Tech Shankar, the CPI (Maoist) central committee member in charge of the Andhra-Odisha Border, was among those killed, Mahesh Chandra Laddha, Additional Director-General of Police (Intelligence), said. Jyothi, alias Saritha, former guard commander of slain Maoist leader Nambala Keshava Rao; Suresh, alias Ramesh; Lokesh, alias Ganesh; Sainu, alias Vasu; Anitha; and Shammi were the other Maoists gunned down.

"The encounter took place around 7 a.m. Three women and four male Naxalites were killed in the exchange of fire on Wednesday," Mr. Laddha said at a press conference. A few of the Maoists who managed to escape from the police in Tuesday's exchange of fire were killed in Wednesday's firing, the intelligence chief added.

ADGP-Intelligence Mahesh Chandra Laddha, Eluru Range IGP G.V.G. Ashok Kumar and other officers looking at the weapons seized from the arrested Maoists in Vijayawada on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

"CPI (Maoist) in-charge central committee member of Andhra Odisha Border (AOB) Metturi Joga Rao, alias Tech Shankar, who specialised in technical operations in the banned outfit, was among those killed in the encounter," Mr. Laddha said. Top Maoist commander Madvi Hidma and his wife, Madakam Raje, were among six killed in a similar encounter on Tuesday.

Hidma was a central committee member and South Bastar battalion commandant of the CPI (Maoist), while his wife was a Chhattisgarh State zonal committee member.

Separately, the police produced 43 arrested Maoists in courts in Eluru, Krishna, and NTR districts on Wednesday. Most of them were remanded in judicial custody for 14 days.

Ashish Sharma

Inspector of M.P. elite force killed in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

An Inspector of the elite anti-Maoist Hawk Force in Madhya Pradesh died on Wednesday after sustaining bullet injuries during an encounter with Maoists in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh, officers said.

According to the police, Ashish Sharma, 40, was leading a Hawk Force platoon as part of an inter-State joint operation in the dense forests near the Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra tri-junction.

Hawk Force Commandant Shiyaz K.M. told *The Hindu* that the teams faced sudden gunfire, triggering an exchange in which Mr. Sharma suffered bullet injuries in his thigh and abdomen.

Taliban Industry Minister begins India visit to boost ties, cut reliance on Pakistan

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi

Against the backdrop of continued hostilities between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Taliban administration Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi started a five-day tour of India on Wednesday.

Official sources said the visit, which highlights Afghanistan's desire to avoid Pakistani ports for its commercial requirements, will help Afghanistan bypass Pakistan for enhanced connectivity.

The visit is being viewed as a significant outreach by the Taliban administration as it is taking place a month after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hosted Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi in Delhi when both sides strengthened the air freight corridor to enhance direct trade and commerce.

Mr. Azizi, who has come with a large business delegation, visited the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 to strengthen bilateral trade and investment. The visiting Afghan team met Neeraj Kharwal, Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organisation, who explained opportunities for greater participation of Afghanistan in future trade events in India. Mr. Azizi met with a number of Indian business representatives after his arrival. He visited stalls set up by Afghan traders in the IITF that are showcasing Afghan agriculture products. The visit by the Afghan trade Minister, a first since 2021 when the Taliban took charge of Kabul, is expected to boost key Indian exports to Afghanistan such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, machinery, sugar, tea and rice. India is keen to import Afghan agricultural products and minerals that have a sizable market in India.

Sources said the visit by Mr. Azizi will provide both sides an opportunity to explore greater Indian investment options in the Afghan mining sector and hydroelectric projects. Diplomatic sources said that Afghanistan has been using the Chabahar port of Iran for most of its commercial requirements as it tries to reduce dependence on the Karachi port.

NIA arrests Anmol Bishnoi, accused in Siddique murder, after deportation from U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anmol Bishnoi being brought to the Patiala House Court, after he was deported to India from the U.S. on Wednesday. PTI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested Anmol Bishnoi, the younger brother of jailed "gangster" Lawrence Bishnoi, following his deportation from the United States to India.

Amid heavy security arrangements, he was produced in a court that sent him to the agency's custody for 11 days.

He had been on the run since 2022 and is the 19th person held in the NIA's terror-gangster conspiracy case. He was chargesheeted in March 2023 for allegedly helping his brother and designated "terrorist" Goldy Brar carry out terror activities between 2020 and 2023. The probe agencies suspect his role in the killing of former Maharashtra Minister Baba Siddique in 2024. At that time, Lawrence Bishnoi was lodged in the Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad. His alleged aide Shubu Lonkar claimed responsibility for the murder, through a Facebook post, linking it to the death of Anuj Thapan in police custody.

Anuj was arrested by the Mumbai police for allegedly opening fire outside Bollywood actor Salman Khan's house on April 14, 2024. Anmol's involvement is also alleged in the firing incident, besides the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala in Punjab's Mansa district in 2022.

According to the NIA, Anmol continued to operate the Bishnoi network from the U.S., coordinating with gang members in India, arranging shelter and logistics for shooters, and running extortion rackets from abroad. He was detained there in November last year and deported to India on Tuesday.

Al Falah chief sent to 13-day custody; ED cites group's rapid rise since 1990s

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Al Falah University is run by the Al Falah Charitable Trust with Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui being named as one of the first trustees. ANI

A Delhi court on Wednesday sent Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, chairman-cum-chancellor of Al Falah University, to Enforcement Directorate custody for 13 days.

Mr. Siddiqui is the founder of the Al Falah Group, which, according to the agency, witnessed a "meteoric rise" since the 1990s.

Spread over 70 acres in Dhauj village of Faridabad in Haryana, the university came into the limelight after three doctors working with the institution were found allegedly to be the part of a "terror" module.

Two doctors, Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie and Shaheen Saeed, were held while the third one – identified as Umar-un-Nabi – later turned out to be the person behind the wheel of the car that exploded near the Red Fort on November 10. The institution has distanced itself from the case and offered to cooperate with the investigations.

In 1992, Mr. Siddiqui set up a company named Al Falah Investment. It is alleged that following a complaint of cheating, he spent over two years in Tihar Jail. He came out on bail in February 2004 and was later acquitted by the court in the case next year, after he and his brother agreed to make repayments.

Investigators have found that Al Falah University is run by the Al Falah Charitable Trust, registered in Delhi's Okhla on September 8, 1995, with Mr. Siddiqui being named as one of the first trustees and designated as its managing trustee. The ED has alleged that the university, through these deceptive practices, has continued to attract admissions, and accumulate substantial monetary gains, thereby enriching itself at the cost of students' trust, future, and legitimate expectations.

"The entire Al Falah Group has seen a meteoric rise since the 1990s, metamorphosing into a large educational body. However, the financials of the various entities are at variance with the huge amount of assets/wealth accumulated by the group. The Proceeds of Crime are also seen to have been diverted/layered on various occasions," it has alleged.

Bangladesh invites NSA Ajit Doval to visit Dhaka amid tense ties

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Ajit Doval

Amid tense bilateral ties, Bangladesh's National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman has invited Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to visit Dhaka. The invitation was extended by the Bangladesh side during a meeting between the two NSAs that took place in New Delhi on Wednesday, ahead of the 7th Meeting of the National Security Advisers of the Colombo Security Conclave on Thursday.

The visit of the Bangladesh team, led by Mr. Rahman, has drawn attention as it commenced a day after the International Crimes Tribunal delivered death sentence for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is in exile in India. The meeting between Mr. Doval and Mr. Rahman discussed "key bilateral issues", said a press release from the High Commission of Bangladesh. Mr. Doval will host his counterparts from Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh at the Colombo Security Conclave, the Ministry of External Affairs said in an announcement.

Mamata slams EC over 'work pressure' after death of BLO

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Highlighting the death of another booth level officer (BLO) in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday blamed the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) for the incident.

"A process that earlier took three years is now being forced into two months on the eve of elections to please political masters, putting inhuman pressure on BLOs. I urge the EC to act with conscience," Ms. Banerjee posted on X.

Shanti Muni Ekka, a BLO in Mal, Jalpaiguri died by suicide. Her family members had requested the joint block development officer to relieve her as a booth-level officer, but she was told to continue her work.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson claimed that 28 people have already lost their lives since the SIR began – some due to fear and uncertainty, others due to stress and overload.

SC to hear Kerala govt., IUML pleas challenging SIR in State tomorrow

Kerala argues conducting the special revision concurrently with the local body polls will require manpower and hinder essential govt. functions; personnel deployed for the local body polls will not be engaged in the SIR exercise, says CEO

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai on Wednesday agreed to urgently list on Friday separate petitions filed by the Kerala government and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) for deferment of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in the State as the "cumbersome" exercise clashes with the local body polls and lead to a strain on human resources besides resulting in an "administrative impasse".

The State, represented by advocate C.K. Sasi, and the IUML, represented by advocate Haris Beeran, made an oral mentioning before the CJI for an early hearing.

The SIR process has been scheduled from November 4 to December 4.

The Kerala State Election Commission had decided to conduct local body polls in two phases on December 9 and 11.

Data check: A special camp in Kozhikode on Wednesday to help people fill their enumeration forms. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki and Ernakulam will go to the polls on December 9. Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod will vote on December 11.

The notification for the election is to be issued on November 14 and that of withdrawal of nominations on November 24. The counting of votes will be on December 13 and the last date for completion of election is December 18.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Kerala had already communicated that the personnel deployed for election to Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs) would not be engaged in the SIR exercise.

'Near impossibility'

The State government pointed out that the simultaneous conduct of the SIR and the LSGI election would be a "near impossibility".

"SIR is a huge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi-governmental services for election-related duties and further 68,000 police and other security personnel. SIR is also a comprehensive process with cumbersome procedure, requiring the services of additional personnel numbering 25,668. The pool of trained and election-experienced staff is finite, which constrains real-world deployment. Parting with such a large number of officers for simultaneous SIR and LSGI elections is a near impossibility, apart from possibly putting the State to an administrative impasse," the State had submitted.

The government said undertaking the SIR would affect the smooth conduct of the local bodies' election. There are 1,200 LSGIs in the State comprising 941 grama panchayats, 152 block panchayats, 14 district panchayats, 87 municipalities and six corporations. There are 23,612 wards in total.

The petitions have highlighted the constitutional mandate under Articles 243-E and 243-U as well as a statutory mandate under Section 38 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and Section 94 of the Kerala Municipality Act to conduct election to the LSGIs within five years.

Both the IUML and the State government had made it plainly clear that objected to the constitutionality of the SIR, terming the exercise an anathema to the democratic polity of the country.

However, they said the current petitions addressed the immediate and practical problem of the logistics of conducting SIR and local bodies election at the same time in the State.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi presents the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 to former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Indira reshaped the country with her policies, says Sonia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chilean leader was awarded for her efforts to ensure rights to all, especially women

Indira Gandhi, India's first woman Prime Minister, reshaped the country with her policies dedicated to fighting poverty, deprivation, conflict, and inequality, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi said on Wednesday.

Ms. Gandhi made these remarks after presenting the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 to former President of Chile Michelle Bachelet, who had also served as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Former National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon headed the jury that selected Ms. Bachelet for the award in recognition of her efforts to ensure the rights of all, but particularly of women.

"The award commemorates Indira Gandhi's monumental contributions by celebrating women, men, and institutions that have worked towards social development, peace, sustainability, and numerous other causes. It reminds us that even in times of strife, there are those who fight for progress, justice, and the well-being of humankind," Ms. Gandhi said.

"As India's first and only woman Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi reshaped our country with her policies dedicated to ameliorating poverty, deprivation, conflict, and inequality. She once said, 'Peace we want because there is another war to fight against poverty, disease, and ignorance,'" she said.

Ms. Gandhi hailed the former President of Chile as an "inspiring leader", and said that her life and work "epitomises the very essence of Indira Gandhi's life and work".

'True privilege'

Ms. Bachelet began her acceptance speech by offering condolences to the victims of the recent bomb blast in Delhi, which left 13 people dead.

"It is a true privilege to be once again in India, a country of extraordinary cultural richness, profound history, and vibrant diversity. Today, I wish to pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Indira Gandhi, a visionary woman and a tremendous source of inspiration for so many people around the world," she said.

"She [Indira Gandhi] believed that nations could prosper only if they lived in harmony with one another. This belief feels even more urgent in today's fragmented world. One of the very causes that deeply moved Indira Gandhi is also what inspired me to enter politics: to improve the welfare of the people. Early in my life, I realised that people's wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the respect for human rights," Ms. Bachelet said.

272 eminent citizens accuse Opposition of 'tarnishing' poll body

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The open letter also noted that the armed forces, Parliament and judiciary had faced similar attacks

Over 270 eminent citizens, including retired judges, bureaucrats, diplomats and former armed forces officers, have issued an open letter accusing Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and several other Opposition leaders of attempting to "tarnish" constitutional institutions, the latest being the Election Commission (EC) , through "unsubstantiated accusations".

The letter said some political leaders were resorting to "provocative" charges instead of offering policy alternatives, noting that institutions such as the armed forces, judiciary and Parliament had previously faced similar attacks. It alleged that the EC was now being subjected to "systematic and conspiratorial" attempts to damage its credibility.

Among the signatories are former Supreme Court Judge Adarsh Kumar Goel, former Delhi High Court Judge S.N. Dhingra, former RAW chief Sanjeev Tripathi, former NIA Director Y.C. Modi, former Secretary to Government of India Samirendra Chatterjee and former police chiefs of several States.

SC advisory today on Presidential Reference on Governors' timelines

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled on Thursday to pronounce its advisory opinion on a Presidential Reference questioning the top court's authority to "impose" timelines and prescribe the manner of conduct of Governors and the President while dealing with State Bills sent to them for assent or reserved for consideration.

Reserving the arguments in September, the five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai had made it clear that the Centre should not expect the top court to "sit idle" and powerless if a constitutional authority failed to discharge his duties.

The marathon hearings in the Presidential Reference had brought into sharp focus the dividing line between Opposition-ruled States and their Governors over delay in clearing crucial laws.

April 8 judgment

The Union government had used the platform of the Presidential Reference to criticise the court for encroaching on the domains of the Governors and the President.

Marathon hearings had brought into sharp focus the dividing line between Opposition-ruled States and Governors

The bone of contention which led to the Presidential Reference was an April 8 judgment of the Supreme Court that imposed a three-month deadline on Governors and the President to deal with Bills placed before them for assent or consideration, respectively.

The court had, in the judgment, held that Governors cannot stall governance by endlessly sitting on important welfare laws passed by State legislatures.

The Union government, through Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, had argued that the April 8 judgment had forced a "one-size-fits-all" solution. Mr. Mehta had contended that a uniform time frame for all State Bills would prove "self-destructive".

"Every Bill has its own context-based issues," he had submitted, adding that the court cannot take over legislative functions by issuing a mandamus to Governors to assent to State Bills.

Attorney General R. Venkataramani had submitted that Governors must be given the discretion to either assent or withhold Bills after testing their constitutionality.

The Hindu's journalists win Laadli awards for gender-sensitive reports

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shrabana Chatterjee and Moyurie Som and, right, Ashna Bhutani with the Laadli award. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Journalists from *The Hindu* bagged honours at the Laadli Media and Advertising Awards for Gender Sensitivity, 2025 on Wednesday.

Population First, a non-governmental organisation, presented the 15th edition of the Laadli awards, honouring 63 print, web, and TV journalists.

The Hindu won accolades for two reports. Shiv Sahay Singh, Shrabana Chatterjee, and Moyurie Som from the Kolkata bureau won an award in the English language print series category for the report "Doctor rape and murder: Violence and vigil in Kolkata".

Their reportage connected the horrific crime at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital to a deeper structural rot in healthcare and governance, and for shifting the focus from sensationalism to accountability.

A Delhi report of Ashna Bhutani and another journalist, "Homes for transgender people: A safe space, threatened", bagged an award under the print category.

The feature highlighted the challenges faced by the Central government-established Garima Grehs that are struggling to keep their doors open for transgender persons.

Population First, which is supported by the United Nations Population Fund, has been recognising journalists and creators in news media and advertising for their work on gender sensitivity since the year 2007.

Journalists from several other organisations, including Scroll, The News Minute, Newslaundry, The Quint, ThePrint, BehanBox, IndiaSpend, and People's Archive of Rural India, took home honours.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road,
Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-21/1364/2025-26 Date: 19.11.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the works: (1) Formation of Industrial Layout including Formation of 30M, 24M & 12M Wide Roads, Flexible Pavement, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Utility Ducts, HDPE Water Supply Pipeline etc., at Ittagatti Industrial Area, Sector-1 in Dharwad Taluk & District. (2) Formation of Industrial Layout including Formation of 30M Wide Roads of Flexible Pavement, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Box Culverts, RCC Utility Ducts, HDPE Water Supply Pipeline etc., at Ittagatti Industrial Area, Sector-2 in Dharwad Taluk & District.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Last Date for submission of bids is **18.12.2025** upto **4:30** pm.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3913/CCL/2025-26

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S.V.AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL **e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited for supply of " **X-Ray (300 mA) with DR System through e-tenders** " to **S. V. Ayurvedic Hospital, TTD, TIRUPATI .**
For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site
http://www.tirumala.org and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**
For further details contact phone number: **0877-2264666.**

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ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
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Tender Notice No: CGM/PROJ/VJA/SIP WORKS/NIT-06 to 11/2025-26

Bids through **apeprocurement.gov.in** are invited from eligible bidders for "System Improvement Project for Survey, Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 35 No. 33/11KV Outdoor Sub-Stations and 15 No. 33/11KV Semi-Indoor Sub-Stations in NTR, Krishna, CRDA, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla and Ongole Circles of APCPDCL in 6 packages on turnkey basis. The Tender information will be made available in AP e-procurement Portal from **20.11.2025**, **18:00Hrs**, Last date for Bid submission online is **04.12.2025**, **16:00Hrs**. e-mail: **cgmproj.cpdcl@apcpdcl.in**

Sd/- Chief General Manager/Projects, APCPDCL, Vijayawada

DOCTOR HARISINGH GOUR VISHWAVIDYALAYA, SAGAR, M.P.
(A Central University)
Ph (O): 07582-297131/Gmail: dacesagar2022@gmail.com www.dhsgsu.edu.in

Free Coaching for SCs, OBCs and PM Cares Candidates for UPSC/State Civil Services & Banking: Entrance Test

Online applications are invited for the entrance examination conducted by the Dr. Ambedkar Center of Excellence (DACE), Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar from Scheduled Cast (SC) and Other Backward Communities (OBC) and PM CARES Children candidates for admission to free coaching for 70 Seats in Civil Services Examination (Preliminary and Mains) and 30 Seats in Banking (Clerk & PO). Online application and other details are available on the university website: **https://dhsgsuadm.samarth.edu.in/index.php/site/index**-and for more details and updates, please visit the **Website, www.dhsgsu.edu.in.**

Important Dates:
1. Starting Date to Apply Online: 22.11.2025
2. Last Date to Apply online:- 05.12.2025

As per rule Stipend per month will be paid by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF)

Registrar

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI
(A University of Law Established by Act No. 1 of 2008 of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

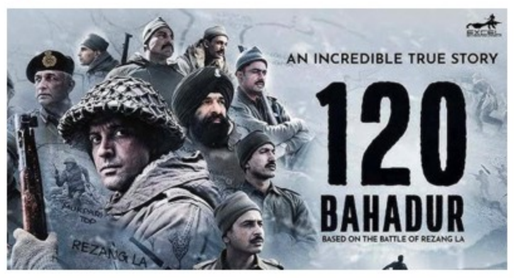
Ref. No. NLUD/Faculty Admin./2025/1541
Date: 19.11.2025

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for various teaching positions (regular/contractual) at National Law University Delhi. The last date for receipt of application is **20.12.2025**. For more details visit the University website **www.nludelhi.ac.in**.

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the University Website.

Sd/-
Registrar

INBRIEF



Delhi HC gives nod for release of *120 Bahadur* this week

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday gave its nod to the release of the Farhan Akhtar starrer movie *120 Bahadur* on November 21, closing a plea challenging its CBFC certification on the grounds that it distorts historical facts. The court noted it was too late to change the name and release date of the film and that the producers have mentioned the names of the soldiers at the end of the movie in the form of a special tribute. The court closed the petition after the Sanyukt Ahir Regiment Morcha and the families of Rezang La soldiers agreed to accept the film's title on the condition that all 120 soldiers' names were included.

SC grants interim bail to activist Jyoti Jagtap

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to activist Jyoti Jagtap, who was arrested in 2020 in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case. A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma passed the order after Ms. Jagtap's counsel, senior advocate Aparna Bhat, submitted that her client had been in custody for five years. Ms. Jagtap had approached the top court challenging the October 17, 2022, order of the Bombay High Court, which had denied her bail under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The High Court had held that the NIA's case against her was "*prima facie* true" and that she was part of a "larger conspiracy" allegedly hatched by the banned CPI (Maoist).

Press bodies question data protection Act and its rules

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

News media associations expressed concerns that the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules (DPDP), 2025, did not address their concerns that the main law – the DPDP Act, 2023, which has been partially notified – could hurt journalistic newsgathering.

The Editors Guild of India, in a statement, said, "While the Guild has earlier highlighted the Act's shortcomings, which included the dilution of the Right to Information regime and the absence of any explicit journalistic exception, the newly issued Rules continue to leave critical questions unresolved for journalists and media organisations."

S. Krishnan, Secretary, Electronics and Information Technology Ministry, had met representatives of the Guild and Digipub, representing pureplay digital outlets, and assured them that a detailed "FAQ" document, which is ready, would be issued addressing concerns of the media outlets.

In a separate statement, Digipub expressed "deep concern" over the Rules and the Act, saying they "collectively cripple the Right to Information Act".

Climate talks veer away from 'implementation'

Differences over financing and pathways have hurt progress on a decisive deal on climate action; observers say European nations have reached the 'maximum' they can deliver in terms of finance

Jacob Koshy
BELEM

Stop "the *blah-blah*, down with gas in Asia," chants a group of activists in the hallways of the COP30 venue in Belém, Brazil, while they raise colourful banners and placards condemning oil and gas drilling.

The walls of this sprawling venue hosting the climate talks – once this harbour-city's airport – are makeshift and porous and these chants bleed through into the more sombre rooms, where teams of delegates from a coalition of countries – nearly all of them Asian – cobble together common ground to stonewall and delay firm action on eschewing fossil fuel use. The countries are collectively called the Like Minded Developing Countries (LMDC).

Saudi Arabia is a vocal representative of the LMDC that comprises several oil and gas producing nations and given the criticality of fossil fuel to their economies, have for years resisted a phase-out plan for fossil fuel. The 'Like Mindedness' of these countries is fuzzy.

Activists participate in a demonstration outside the venue for the COP30 UN Climate Summit in Belem on Wednesday. AP

The climate talks in Baku, last year, concluded with the rich countries promising to deliver $300 billion annually by 2035, which was viewed as insufficient to keep the world from heating beyond two degrees Celsius (2C). The push-back against this – a position India has independently articulated multiple times – is that these sums are never available as low-cost loans or grants and available largely as part of commercial transactions.

"Grants and concessional resources can lower the cost of capital, facilitating a robust pipeline of investments and making these investments more sustainable by lowering the cost of capital," India said on November 15.

Differing views

On the other hand, observers as part of European delegations say that several Western European countries have reached the "maximum" they can deliver in terms of such public finance. "While it is well understood that (developing) countries have their own limitations and planned pathways regarding their dependence on fossil fuel, the sense is that the maximum funds that can be made available as public finance have already been done so," said Jen Mattias Clausen, EU Program Director with Concito, a think tank in Denmark and who has been part of COP negotiations for over a decade.

This fundamental logjam guides attempts by the President of COP negotiations, at present Andre Lago of Brazil, to opt for a process whereby all countries – nearly all of them who are part of about 19 negotiating blocs – feel heard, rather than crafting an ambitious decisive deal that would ratchet climate action. This, when COP30, in the run up to the two-week jamboree was pitched as a "..COP of implementation."

As things stand on Wednesday, the Presidency has asked countries to evolve consensus on four of the most pressing climate concerns – finance, trade, transparency and the fact that countries' emissions-cutting plans – known as nationally determined contributions or NDC, are inadequate to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Uniform organ transplant policy needed, says top court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said a uniform national policy was imperative to ensure putting in place a transparent mechanism for organ transplantations.

The court said the mechanism must operate beyond the limitations of gender, region and class across States. "There should be uniform criteria for organ transplants for all," it observed.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran referred to how organ donors, many a time, were left in the lurch following transplantation without any follow-up medical care. "A live donor who parts with a valuable organ should not be ignored and must be well looked-after following the donation," the Bench noted in a hearing of a petition filed by the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation.

It asked the Centre to persuade Andhra Pradesh to adopt the 2011 amendments to the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. It directed Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Manipur to adopt the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014.

ISRO tests bootstrap mode start on CE20 cryogenic engine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully demonstrated the bootstrap mode start test on the CE20 cryogenic engine which powers the upper stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) rocket.

The test on the CE20 cryogenic engine, which was successfully conducted under vacuum conditions in the High-Altitude Test (HAT) facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, on November 7, for a duration of 10 seconds is an important development towards enhancing the restart capability and mission flexibility of future LVM3 flights.

Though the CE20 cryogenic engine, powering the LVM3 upper stage, is already qualified for operation at thrust levels ranging from 19 to 22 tonnes in flight with a single start, and also for the Gaganyaan missions, during nominal operation, the engine ignition is initiated under tank head conditions, followed by the start of turbo pumps using a stored gas start-up system.

"For future missions, multiple in-flight restarts of the CE20 engine will be needed for flexible multi-orbit missions. But with the current set-up, each restart demands an additional start-up gas bottle and associated systems.Hence, achieving bootstrap mode start – where the engine builds up to steady operation without external start-up assistance – is essential," the ISRO stated.

SC allows CAQM to take 'proactive' measures to curb Delhi air pollution

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) a free hand to take "any proactive measure" to curb air pollution throttling Delhi-NCR after the statutory body proposed to include choice GRAP IV restrictions like work-from-home and 50% office attendance in the ongoing GRAP III stage itself.

"Any proactive measure of CAQM to reduce air pollution is always welcome," Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench including Justice K. Vinod Chandran, observed in an order. The court said the CAQM must however consult stakeholders and take everyone on board.

The court was responding to a note submitted by the CAQM proposing short-term and long-term measures against air pollution choking Delhi-NCR.

On Tuesday, Delhi's air quality showed 'very poor' with the city's AQI touching 344 and four stations reporting 'severe' pollution levels.

Amicus curiae, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, highlighted a CAQM recommendation to exempt BS-III emission vehicles from the protection of an August 12 top court order, which had barred authorities from taking any steps against the owners of 10-year-old diesel and 15-year-old petrol vehicles.

The CAQM also proposed including the GRAP III restriction of staggered office timings in GRAP II.

Congestion control

The Commission recommended differential rates and augmentation of public transport fleet and metro services, more deployment at traffic congestion spots and synchronisation of traffic movements to be put in place as part of the GRAP I stage. The CAQM said NCR States and the Delhi government must expeditiously notify vehicle aggregators' policies and develop a portal for monitoring them.

The court directed the CAQM to look into the issue of schools conducting sports events in the months of November and December.

Ms. Singh said such events virtually amount to putting children in a gas chamber. The court made it clear that the CAQM must pass the necessary directions to the States concerned regarding this issue.

As long-term measures, the CAQM proposed a review of the electric vehicle policies and imposition of higher environmental protection charges in luxury diesel cars and SUVs of 2000 cc capacity and above. The court scheduled the next hearing for December 10.

NCDC flags study on rising antibiotic resistance in India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has refuted claims made in an international study published by *The Lancet* that over 50% of Indian patients hospitalised for a specific gastrointestinal procedure are colonised with at least one multi-drug-resistant organism (MDRO).

The study has raised alarm over soaring antimicrobial resistance in India, describing it as a rapidly escalating superbug crisis and a "global threat".

In response, the NCDC, which is mandated to prevent, detect, and control diseases of public health importance in India, pointed out that *The Lancet* dataset only reports colonisation of multi-drug-resistant organisms, not actual infections.

"Colonisation is a microbiological finding, but not a clinical failure," it said, adding that the results refer to specific high-risk clinical groups and cannot be generalised for all patients or the general population in India.

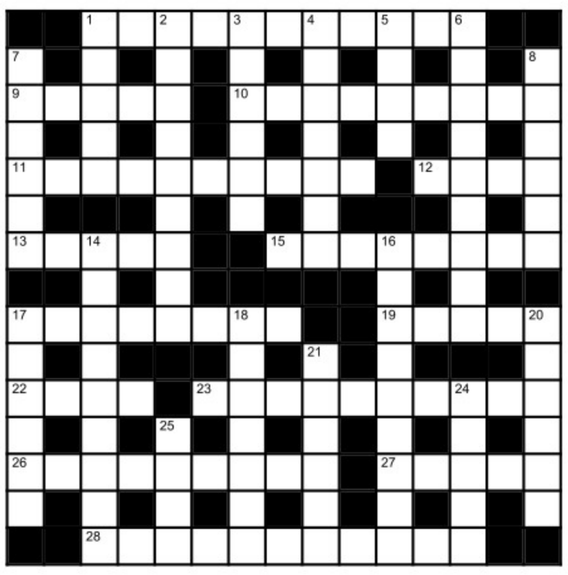
The research paper, published in *The Lancet*'s journal *eClinicalMedicine*, is titled *Preprocedural screening for multidrug-resistant organisms in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP): an international, multicentre, cross-sectional observational study*'. An ERCP is an endoscopic procedure used to diagnose and treat problems in the gall-bladder, the bile ducts, and the pancreas.

TH CROSSWORD + 14644

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Writer endlessly getting up and approving (11)
9 In India, Zoroastrian pairs dance (5)
10 What one may handle when making masala dosa? It's a controversial subject! (3,6)
11 Swan and linnet playing a game (4,6)
12 Port from Birkenhead, England (4)
13 Variety meat? It's not on... Has a bit of lard (5)
15 Space traveller having one kind of drug (8)
17 Oscar writes about north-eastern head of state's transparency (8)
19 Spice? And Indian? (5)
22 Word for period of time (4)
23 Rented Oman building and decorated (10)
26 Horrible creature captures a Yankee priory (9)
27 Wrongly maims prayer leaders (5)
28 Help UN agent making a mammoth weapon (8,3)

Down

1 Projectile concealed in marrows (5)
2 Halt intro performed in sporting event (9)
3 Some Washington handler available nearby (2,4)
4 Works out by instinct manufacture of tin suit (7)
5 Engineers leaving free press? (4)
6 Violently ram our dog for Brig.? (9)
7 An election with love for Greek god (6)
8 Silly Leonardo giving up old ritual initially for Lent (6)
14 Type of eggs kept in front of cooking equipment without charge (4-5)
16 More than old church editor in Germany (9)
17 Punctual? Not me! I can be wrong! (2,4)
18 Scream, "South Indian children" (7)
20 Streaker from Jhunjhunu district? (6)
21 Ada leaves country by that ravine (6)
24 Mark a twin wrongly (5)
25 Mislead to some extent, "An isolated landmass" (4)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

T	A	D	R	S	C	F		
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C	I	D	U	A	N	C	H	O
V	Y	D	E	C	L	I	N	E
A	S	A	C	S	H	R	I	M
P	U	N	P	A	C	K	E	D
N	O	C	O	E	E	S	O	T
E	R	I	C	E	N	R	A	G
E	E	I	E	T	A	A	B	A
R	N	S	P	E	A	R	T	A
R	O	T	D	E	D	Y	E	B

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	7	4	9	8	6	2	5
9	2	6	7	5	1	3	4	8
4	8	5	3	2	6	1	9	7
7	4	1	8	3	2	9	5	6
2	3	9	6	1	5	7	8	4
5	6	8	9	7	4	2	3	1
1	7	4	2	8	3	5	6	9
6	5	3	1	4	9	8	7	2
8	9	2	5	6	7	4	1	3

FAITH

Scriptures and dharma

Dharma and our nation are inseparable. The Sanskrit text Thesaurus proclaims "*Sasvathosthu Dhruvo Nithya: Sanatana Dharma*:" – affirming that Sanatana Dharma is eternal, unshakeable, and indestructible. Scriptures such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavata Purana stand as enduring pillars upholding this timeless tradition. Sri Ramanujamji explained that Ramayana presents a complete model for an ideal society. It offers a perfect king in Dasaratha, ideal mothers in his queens, an ideal son in Sri Rama, a perfect wife in Sita, ideal brothers in Lakshmana, Bharata and Satrugna, a perfect servant in Hanuman, an ideal friend in Vibhishana, and even an ideal enemy in Ravana. Through these exemplary characters, the Ramayana continues to guide and inspire generations.

Srimad Bhagavatam presents the vision of a true Bhagavata (devotee) society. It depicts the pure and unwavering love that devotees express to God, illustrating how life becomes elevated when centred on devotion, surrender, and divine love. In addition, the Mahabharata reflects a practical society and the complexities of human life, showing how people can change for better or worse. Duryodhana, driven by jealousy, even attempted to kill his elder brother Yudhishthira. In Vidura Neethi, Vidura advises that one should never offer counsel to a person who has not sought it. In the Yaksha Prashna, when the Yaksha asked Yudhishthira which path one should follow, he wisely replied that one must choose the path shown by the righteous elders. Through such teachings, the Mahabharata offers deep insights into human behaviour and the principles that sustain society.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,186	0.61
US Dollar	88.48	0.13
Gold	1,27,300	1.19
Brent oil	63.58	-0.79

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2433.10	-3.70
Adani Ports	1484.20	-10.80
Apollo Hosp	7459.00	73.50
Asian Paints	2893.70	-12.30
Axis Bank	1270.40	5.00
Bajaj Auto	8884.50	-36.50
Bajaj Finserv	2050.20	0.00
Bajaj Finance	1005.60	-8.00
Bharat Elec	423.20	2.30
Bharti Airtel	2159.80	10.60
Cipla	1526.80	12.30
Coal India	379.05	-4.90
Dr Reddys Lab	1250.20	6.40
Eicher Motors	6896.50	82.00
Eternal Ltd.	306.60	0.45
Grasim Ind	2744.70	-17.30
HCL Tech	1662.60	67.40
HDFC Bank	994.60	2.15
HDFC Life	761.10	-0.70
Hindalco	790.95	-6.20
Hind Unilever	2441.60	37.60
ICICI Bank	1383.10	9.70
IntGlobeAvi	5758.50	19.00
Infosys	1541.10	54.70
ITC	403.55	-2.30
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	304.45	-1.50
JSW Steel	1164.90	1.90
Kotak Bank	2105.90	12.80
L&T	4019.60	20.00
M&M	3722.50	27.70
Maruti Suzuki	15768.00	-162.00
Max Healthcare	1164.40	47.70
NestleIndia	1279.00	13.90
NTPC	326.60	-1.85
ONGC	249.00	2.05
PowerGrid Corp	275.15	0.95
Reliance Ind	1518.90	-0.50
SBI Life	2004.80	11.50
State Bank	982.75	10.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	818.05	-2.15
Sun Pharma	1784.10	25.30
TataConsumerProduct	1162.10	8.00
Tata Steel	173.21	0.76
TCS	3147.70	60.60
Tech Mahindra	1433.90	11.90
Titan	3933.10	53.90
Tata Motors PV	360.85	-10.45
Trent Ltd.	4358.90	-15.10
UltraTech Cement	11666.00	-41.00
Wipro	246.07	5.17

Tractor Junction raises ₹200 cr.

Rural auto-fintech platform, Tractor Junction on Wednesday said it has raised $22.6 million (₹200 crore) in a Series A funding round. The round includes $17 million in equity, led by Astanor, a Europe-based impact fund making its first investment in India, the company said. PTI

Karnataka signs LoIs worth ₹2,600 crore; to create 3,500 jobs

Drone flight test facility, first such in the country, expected to generate over 500 jobs in drone research, testing, development, manufacturing

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Research minds: Visitors at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Karnataka government has secured six Letters of Intent (LoIs), in the areas of drone technology, semiconductor, EV battery and biotech, for investments totalling ₹2,600 crore.

Addressing a press conference at the Bengaluru Tech Summit here, Karnataka IT and BT minister Priyank Kharge said these six projects, cumulatively, would create 3,500 new jobs. The agreements were a key highlight of the second day of the Bengaluru Tech Summit on Wednesday.

The Drone Federation India (DFI), a body that has 550 drone tech firms as its members, has signed an LoI with the State government to set up a drone flight test facility, the country's first such infrastructure, and this would create over 500 new jobs in drone research, testing, development and manufacturing.

Drone testing facility

According to Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, Chairman, KEONICS, the drone federation has committed to invest ₹50-100 crore in the testing facility.

The government will offer 20 acres of land at Chintamani for the facility.

The drone testing facility will be established on a PPP model and land is to be contributed by the State government, while DFI will bring in drone firms to utilise the facility.

Holistic ecosystem

"Testing facility is also expected to trigger the creation of a holistic ecosystem for dronetech in Karnataka with elements such as cutting edge research, development and manufacturing etc., coming up and create new jobs," DFI's president Smit Shah told *The Hindu*.

An LoI was also signed with Global HDI, a firm that specialises in producing High-Density Interconnect (HDI) printed circuit boards commonly used in consumer electronics, telecom, automotive, and high-speed devices, to open a HDI/multi-layer PCB plant at an outlay of ₹1,500 crore. Other LoIs expected to bring fresh investments and jobs to Bengaluru included: Tsuyo Manufacturing's ₹250 crore investment to set up Cell Therapy R&D and EV Powertrain; MiniMines Cleantech Solutions ₹350 crore investment to set up a Critical Mineral Refining Giga Complex; ₹250 crore investment by Elleve Solutions, an ESDM firm offering PCB design, prototyping, assembly, calibration, certification and contract manufacturing, to set up a PCB and electronics manufacturing facility; ₹130 crore investment by EyeStem Research, which develops scalable iPSC based cell therapies, starting with Dry AMD, to establish a Cell Therapy R&D and manufacturing facility.

Banks to up scrutiny on loans to export firms post RBI relief

Piyush Shukla
MUMBAI

Banks will have to monitor the extent of moratorium or deferment availed by the exporters

Banks will step up scrutiny of loans extended to exporting companies as the Reserve Bank of India's recently announced relief measures for exporters are implemented, experts say.

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda, said banks need to monitor the asset quality closely post December as exports of garments, jewellery, auto components, and leather products, mostly by the MSME sector, can be vulnerable to the U.S. tariff shock.

"As exporters have been given time to bring back their dollars from 9 to 15 months, there can be a temporary mismatch between inflows and outflows, thus putting pressure on the currency," he said.

Risk watch

Anil Gupta, Senior V-P and Co-Group head at ICRA Ratings, said banks will have to monitor the extent of moratorium or deferment availed by the exporters. A large quantum of borrowers availing either of the relief measures could potentially increase the uncertainty on the asset quality for the lenders.

A 5% provisioning on such loans, where lenders have given a relief to exporters, could also result in increased provisions, but unlikely to have a material impact on near-term profitability, he said.

Karan Gupta, Director and Head of Financial Institutions at India Ratings and Research, said that similar to the COVID-19 period, there is always an option to extend the moratorium period if required.

"If the trade deal takes a longer time to complete, and the regulator sees continuing impact, then the moratorium can be extended. That flexibility always exists. Lenders will be cautious in lending to export-related entities. They will assess fresh loans on an entity-to-entity and sector-to-sector basis," Mr. Gupta said.

The increased hesitancy or oversight on existing exposure will be there, he said, adding that not all of the export-related advances will be impacted due to the tariffs. Among the impacted loans, banks will have to ascertain how many are secured and unsecured.

Harsh Dugar, Executive Director, Federal Bank, says the moratorium and deferment permitted to these exporters would provide liquidity, with repayment deferment going till September 2026.

Additionally, reduction of margins permitted by reassessment of limits would provide additional liquidity against existing stocks and book debts.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

INBRIEF

Piyush Goyal to travel to Israel to review FTA talks

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will travel to Israel on November 20-22 on the invitation of Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Nir Barkat, the Ministry of Commerce of Industry announced on Wednesday. Mr. Goyal will be accompanied by a 60-member business delegation, facilitated by the CII, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, and Start-up India.

L&T to produce armoured vehicle for Indian Army

Infrastructure major L&T and BAE Systems have bagged a contract from the Indian Army for supply of BvS10 Sindhu, a specialised all-terrain armoured vehicle, according to a regulatory filing. Under the contract, L&T will indigenously produce the BvS10 Sindhu at its Armoured Systems Complex in Hazira with technical and design support from BAE Systems Hägglunds, the original manufacturer of the BvS10 platform. The BvS10 Sindhu is an upgraded variant of the proven BvS10 all-terrain vehicle. PTI

Bondada, Adani ink renewable energy framework agreement

Hyderabad-based Bondada Group and Adani Group have entered into a framework agreement in the renewable energy sector. The agreement marks the beginning of a strategic design and construction partnership and will be in place for the next five years to guide collaboration between Bondada Engineering (BEL) and Adani Green Energy (AGEL). As the first major project under the strategic partnership, BEL was recently awarded an order for 650 MW of solar energy works from AGEL.

With 75 MAXs flydubai bets big on Boeing after Airbus order

Jagriti Chandra
DUBAI

Higher and higher: A Flydubai Boeing 737 MAX 8 performs a display flight at Al-Maktoum International Airport. AFP

"We are always looking to expand", Dubai-based carrier flydubai's CEO Ghaith Al Ghaith said moments before it announced a second aircraft agreement in two days, this time for Boeing's 75 MAXs.

flydubai announced a Memorandum of Agreement with Boeing for 75 737 MAX aircraft, valued at $13 billion, and options for 75 more aircraft.

"We are always looking at possibilities to expand and improve our operations," Mr. Ghaith said at the Dubai Airshow 2025.

To a question on whether they were confident in the manufacturer despite delays in aircraft deliveries, he replied, "We are very confident in our country, in Dubai, and what lies ahead more than any time ever in my lifetime."

The multiple orders from the airline, and Emirates' 65 Boeing 777-9 order at the airshow come amid a huge economic transformation in neighbouring Saudi Arabia including expanded airports and new airlines, including full-service carrier Riyadh Air that started flights to London last month.

On Tuesday, the airline had also announced a 150-aircraft order for Airbus A321 neo. The deliveries are expected to start from 2031 until 2043 and will help the airline add 15 more seats and fly two hours longer than the current equipment in its fleet.

Along with Emirates, flydubai announced plans to offer Starlink WiFi on its aircraft.

Emirates Group, Chairman and CEO Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said flydubai was leaving its low-cost roots behind.

"They started as a low-cost airline, that is what we needed at the time," the chairman told *The Hindu*.

The 'luxury side' of Dubai and the changes in the past 15 years since the launch of flydubai in March 2010 compel changes at the airline, he explained.

(The writer was in Dubai on flydubai's invitation)

'NBFCs' home loan growth likely to lag'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Home loans form 59% of NBFC assets under management.

New mortgage loans from non-banking finance and housing finance companies will face challenges from a potential slowdown in residential home sales and competition from banks in the current fiscal, according to Crisil ratings.

This may lead to mortgage finance, that includes home loans, loans against property (LAP), lease rental discounting and developer finance, climbing at 18% in FY26 or almost the same pace as in FY25.

Home loans, comprising 59% of the assets under management of NBFCs, are expected to climb at a moderate 12%-13% in the current and subsequent fiscals, slower than the 14% in fiscal 2025. LAP will also grow at a slower 27%-29% against 32% in FY25.

For non-banks to grow, they have to adapt to competitive business models, said the rating agency.

Insurers bet on rural via Bima Gram API

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Bima Gram application programming interface rolled out by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as a tool to enhance insurance penetration in rural markets has successfully completed the pilot testing phase.

Five insurers - two life and two general as well as a health insurer - as a part of the pilot project, integrated, tested and verified the functionality of the API (application programming interface). Full industry integration is expected to be completed soon, the Insurance Awareness Committee (IAC-Life) said.

The Committee said the digital initiative designed to streamline and authenticate insurance coverage data in rural India is set to change the face of insurance penetration in the hinterland.

Bima Gram ensures policies from rural areas can be digitally validated and accurately mapped with respective gram panchayats. Besides reducing manual documentation, it enhances accuracy, speed and efficiency of rural business reporting.

The API will enable insurers build comprehensive baseline datasets for future policy planning and resource allocation.

अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, खण्ड-दौसा

क्रमांक :- अधि.अभि./दौसा/वि.बो./2025-26/राजकाज 18915476 दिनांक :- 18/11/2025

बिड आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-09/2025-26

खण्ड दौसा के अन्तर्गत जिला दौसा एवं करौली जिले के विभिन्न निर्माण कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाईन बिड ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट के माध्यम से उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत बिडर्स से आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in/rsamb** पर भी देखा जा सकता है। **(UBN No. AGM2526WSOB00855 to 865)**

राज.संवाद/सी/25/14127 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता

कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, जोधपुर
कार्यालय भू-सम्पदा अधिकारी

निविदा सूचना संख्या 14/2025-26

कार्यालय भू–संपदा अधिकारी, कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, जोधपुर द्वारा निम्न कार्यो हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी के समकक्ष संवेदक जो कि राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के विभिन्न विभागों में पंजीकृत हो, हेतु खुली निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित पूर्ण विवरण वेब साईट **www.aujodhpur.ac.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** तथा **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** देखा जा सकता है।

UBN No. : JAU2526WSOB00131

राज.संवाद/सी/25/14136 भू-सम्पदा अधिकारी

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WCDC SIROHI

No. :- 579 Date :- 14/11/2025

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No. 12 YEAR 2025-26

Bids for

Sr.	Detail of Work	UBN
1	Construction of Amrit Sarovar(2), PCD(2), Talab Retaining wall (8), Farm Pond(2), MPT(1), SP(2), CCT(2) and SSB(2) in PMKSY 2.2 Project, Block- Pindwara of Amount 2,09,20,000/-	WSC2526 WSOB01684

are invited from interested bidders up to 08.12.2025 time 6 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/)** of the state. **NIB Code WSC2526A0986**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/14143 SE cum PM, WCDC, ZP- Sirohi

NASHIK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, NASHIK
E-Tender Cell Department
E-Tender Notice No. 33 (2025-26)

Nashik Municipal Corporation, Nashik (Pubilc Works Department) vide E-Tender Notice No.**33** (Year 2025-26) invites bids for Nine (9) number of works. The period of publication of the tender will be as follows.

Works No.	Period of publication	Last Date of Submission
1	Date. 19/11/2025 to 09/12/2025	Date. 9/12/2025
1	Date. 19/11/2025 to 03/12/2025	Date. 03/12/2025
7	Date. 19/11/2025 to 26/11/2025	Date. 26/11/2025

This tender notice will be displayed on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Note - All further necessary notices/clarifications will be published on the online website.

जनसंपर्क/जा.क्र/३५४/२०२५
दि.१८/११/२०२५

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(Tender Cell)
Nashik Municipal Corporation.

गोदा प्रदुषण टाळा, भविष्य संभाळा.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 4545)

दिनांक/Dated : 18-11-2025

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई–टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद–दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में परीक्षण रिग / हार्डवेयर समुच्चयन तैयारी एवं भंडारण सुविधा में विद्युत कार्य / Electrical works in test rig / hardware assembly preparation and storage facility at TERLS, VSSC / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/E01/22/2025-2026 Dated 18.11.2025, (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C:₹40.29 लाख/Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading : दिनांक 19.11.2025, 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 02.12.2025, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए **www.tenderwizard.in/isro** या **www.isro.gov.in** देखें। Interested tenderers may visit **www.tenderwizard.in/isro** or **www.isro.gov.in** for details.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director
सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

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Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No. 345/HPs/ED-I/S-434 **Dated: 18.11.2025**

Dy. CE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for **Procurement of 02 No. new Fully Forged Pelton runners (One No. runner for odd machines & One No. runner for even Machines) of high design efficiency having "matching profile with existing water jet system" along with HPHVOF Coating and Machining/Boring & Reaming of coupling holes of new runners to match with the existing turbine shafts at site for 4x15 MW machines of Shanan HEP, PSPCL, Joginder Nagar (HP).**

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **20.11.2025 (11:00 AM)** onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 814/25 1079/12/2025-26/5149

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Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Nature of work	Due date
252613 005891	Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film 80/90 Microns of various sizes for Unit - I.	03.12.2025
252623 003305	Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp (BSKP), Burst Index - 6.0 for Unit - II.	02.12.2025
252623 003306	BCTMP Softwood 70 - High Yield Pulp	02.12.2025
252623 003307	BCTMP Hardwood 70 - High Yield Pulp	04.12.2025
252623 003309	BCTMP Hardwood 80 - High Yield Pulp (Low Tensile).	04.12.2025
252623 003300	Procurement of Liquid Alum - Non Ferric for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	05.12.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

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TAIPEI

U.S. confirms sale of $700-mn air defence missile system to Taiwan

AFP

The United States approved a $700-million sale of RTX-made NASAMS air defence systems to Taiwan, the second weapons deal in a week. Used in Ukraine, the system boosts Taipei's defences amid rising China tensions. Work is estimated to be completed by February 2031 under a fixed-price Pentagon contract. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. Congress orders Epstein files release after President's U-turn

REUTERS

The U.S. Congress on Tuesday overwhelmingly voted to release government files on Jeffrey Epstein after President Donald Trump ended his opposition. The Epstein Files Transparency Act compels publication of unclassified documents on Epstein's operations and death. Mr. Trump has pledged not to veto the legislation. AFP

DHAKA

NCP registered as a political party in Bangladesh, *Shapla Koli* symbol

AFP

The National Citizen Party (NCP), linked to the movement that ousted Sheikh Hasina, was officially registered by Bangladesh's Election Commission ahead of the 2026 general election. It received the symbol *Shapla Koli* (water lily bud) and plans candidates in all 300 constituencies. PTI

WASHINGTON

White House working with Russia on new Ukraine peace plan: report

AP

The U.S. administration is secretly drafting a 28-point peace plan to end the Ukraine war, inspired by President Trump's Gaza ceasefire proposal, Axios reported on Tuesday, citing U.S., Russian officials. The plan includes peace in Ukraine, European security guarantees, and future U.S. relations with Russia and Ukraine. REUTERS

Trump defends MBS, designates Riyadh as a major non-NATO ally

U.S. President, who hosted the Saudi prince in White House, approved a 'major defence sale package' which includes 'future deliveries' of F-35s, and signed a civil nuclear cooperation deal; MBS pledged to make investments worth $1 trillion in U.S.

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump fiercely defended Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday over the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, insisting the kingdom's de facto ruler "knew nothing" about the murder as he wooed him at the White House.

Mr. Trump sought to brush the gruesome murder of the *Washington Post* columnist under the red carpet, honouring the Saudi royal with a flypast and lavish dinner, and formally naming Riyadh as a major non-NATO ally.

Close ties: Donald Trump meets Mohammed bin Salman in the Oval Office of the White House on Tuesday. AP

He raged at a journalist who asked the Prince in the Oval Office about the case for embarrassing the Saudi royal on his first U.S. trip since the murder, and called Khashoggi "extremely controversial".

"A lot of people didn't like that gentleman that you're talking about," he said.

"Whether you like him or didn't like him, things happen, but he (the prince) knew nothing about it. And we can leave it at that. You don't have to embarrass our guest by asking a question like that."

The Saudi royal, who came bearing a pledge of a $1 trillion investment in the U.S. on his first U.S. visit since the killing, said Khashoggi's murder was "painful" and a "huge mistake".

Mr. Trump called for U.S. broadcaster ABC, whose journalist asked the question about Khashoggi's murder, to have its licence revoked in a furious diatribe against the "crappy" company.

In a surprise move at the gala dinner in the evening, Mr. Trump said he was designating Saudi Arabia as one of just 20 major non-NATO allies around the world. "I'm just telling you now for the first time, because they wanted to keep a little secret for tonight," he said.

The two countries later signed a host of deals, including a civil nuclear cooperation agreement that the White House said would last decades.

Mr. Trump also approved a "major defence sale package" which includes "future deliveries" of F-35s. They also agreed to share AI technology "while protecting U.S. technology from foreign influence".

Dissanayake vows to begin Constitution talks in 2026

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Wednesday told the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi (ITAK) that his government would initiate talks on the promised new Constitution in January next year. He also said elections to the Provincial Councils would be held without further delay, although he did not provide a timeline for the same, members of the party told *The Hindu*.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake with ITAK members during a meeting in Colombo on Wednesday. PRESIDENTIAL MEDIA DIVISION

It was the first time that the ITAK – prominent Tamil party with eight MPs in the current Parliament – met President Dissanayake on the pending political solution to Sri Lanka's national question. "We told the President that unless this issue is resolved, the country cannot move forward," ITAK general secretary and former Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran told the media following the meeting. Acting president of the ITAK, C.V.K. Sivagnanam, and all parliamentarians representing the party in the north and east were present at the meeting.

Mr. Dissanayake told the ITAK that longstanding issues faced by the people of the Northern and Eastern Provinces can no longer be addressed through "outdated political solutions" and therefore, it was necessary to move towards "a new political framework", a statement from the President's office said. "Everyone's support is essential in that process," he further emphasised. The discussion comes after the ITAK wrote to Mr. Dissanayake in September 2025 – when he completed a year in office – seeking a meeting on the long-pending political settlement. Reminding him of his pre-poll pledge to address the aspirations of the Tamil people, the letter said: "no action seems to have been taken".

Concerns over delay

The Dissanayake government is yet to initiate processes to draft a new Constitution. Further, although the five-year terms of Sri Lanka's nine Provincial Councils expired between 2017 and 2019, elections are yet to be held. While the administration's latest budget has allocated funds to hold the Provincial Council elections, concerns persist over a further delay, owing to differences among political parties over a possible shift to a new electoral system.

Weeks before his election to the country's top office in September 2024, Mr. Dissanayake told *The Hindu* that fixing Sri Lanka's battered economy and wiping out racism were "top priority" for his National People's Power (NPP) coalition. He promised to take forward previous efforts to draft a new Constitution.

In Wednesday's meeting, ITAK representatives referred to several earlier proposals to address the Tamil national question, which is at the heart of Sri Lanka's enduring ethnic conflict, 16 years after the civil war ended.

Batticaloa parliamentarian Shanakiyan Rasamanickam said that "although a year late", it was very clear from the meeting that President Dissanayake "has a very good understanding of Tamil aspirations, what needs to be done and the various agreements and technical processes" of the past. "We are willing to engage constructively," Mr. Rasamanickam said, underscoring the need for "a clear timeline and concrete confidence building measures" from the government.

The ITAK's talks with Mr. Dissanayake come days after tensions in the eastern Trincomalee district over the placement of an allegedly unauthorised Buddha statue, an issue that was also debated in Parliament. The incident sparked concern amid Tamils' ongoing battle for their lands that they accuse authorities, including from archaeology and forest departments, of taking over to "alter the demography" of their areas.

Russian strikes kill 25 in Ukraine as Zelenskyy arrives in Turkiye

Associated Press
KYIV

A large Russian drone and missile barrage pummelled a western Ukrainian city, killing 25 people, including three children, authorities said on Wednesday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived in Turkiye in search of diplomatic support for his fight against Russia's invasion.

The nighttime attack hit two nine-story apartment blocks in Ternopil, located around 200 km from the Polish border, according to Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko. Emergency crews were sifting through the rubble in daylight to find any survivors, he said. At least 66 people, including 16 children, were injured, emergency services said.

Russia fired 476 strike and decoy drones, as well as 48 missiles of various types, says Ukraine

Russia fired 476 strike and decoy drones, as well as 48 missiles of various types, at Ukrainian targets overnight, Ukraine's air force said. The bombardment included 47 cruise missiles, with air defences intercepting all but six of them, the air force said. Western-supplied F-16 and Mirage-2000 jets intercepted at least 10 cruise missiles, it said.

The Ukrainian leader said he would meet with Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan later on Wednesday as part of his efforts to diplomatically isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin and bring more international pressure to bear on him.

Israeli air strikes kill 25 Palestinians in Gaza, rattling truce

Reuters
CAIRO

At least 25 Palestinians were killed in four Israeli air strikes on Wednesday in a part of Gaza under Hamas control since a shaky ceasefire took effect in October, health authorities said.

Medics said 10 people were killed in the Gaza City suburb of Zeitoun, two in Shejaia suburb to the east and the rest in two separate attacks in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military said its forces struck Hamas targets across Gaza after members of the Palestinian militant group fired on its troops in violation of the nearly six-week-old ceasefire. No Israeli forces were injured.

Repeated shooting incidents have pointed to the fragility of the ceasefire. Israel and Hamas have traded blame for what both call violations of the U.S.-brokered truce, the first stage of Trump's 20-point plan for a post-war Gaza.

Sport

Captain Rohit confident of India putting up a good show at the junior World Cup

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Captain Rohit, a powerful dragflicker and a fearless rusher, is confident of India putting up a good show in the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup, to be held here and in Madurai, from November 28 to December 10.

In his second and last stint with the National junior team, the 21-year-old from Haryana is excited to play in front of the home crowd.

"I'm feeling good because we are playing in front of the home crowd. I'm also excited because the other teams will come under pressure," he said.

Though Rohit has been with the junior team since 2022, winning gold medals in the Asia Cup in 2023 and 2024 and the Sultan of Johor Cup in 2022, he was chosen as the skipper ahead of quite a few seniors.

Head coach P.R. Sreejesh defended the decision, terming it a collective one. "He is one of the iconic and most recognised players in the team. He is part of the leadership group with four others, and they respect each other. When it comes to captaincy, I asked my players who they would pick and most of them chose Rohit," revealedd the former India goalkeeper.

For Rohit, hailing from Dabra village in the Hisar district of Haryana, pressure is not something to fear but something to feel responsible about.

"As a dragflicker, I have to score whenever the team needs me. When the team is losing, I have to tell the players to be more active."

Rohit said playing with the senior India team in the camp at Bengaluru recently showed what real pressure meant, and taught the team how to deal with it.

"We played four matches with the seniors. The seniors are quick and put a lot of pressure. The quarterfinals and semifinals of the junior World Cup here will be like that and we are prepared," he said.

Geared up: In his final stint with the National junior team, Rohit is excited to play in front of the home crowd. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Coach Gilardi bullish about *Los Leoncitos*' medal prospects

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Like any true Argentine, Juan Ignacio Gilardi loves to explore nature in all its beauty.

The 44-year-old head coach of the Argentina's men's junior hockey team for the World Cup is a keen surfer and is also into kite-surfing.

"I hope to find at least one hour to do kite-surfing here. If you know someone that takes lessons, contact me," Gilardi told *The Hindu* here on Wednesday.

But, before that, he has a few scores to settle. Having lost to eventual champion Germany in the quarterfinals of the previous edition (2023), Gilardi is confident *Los Leoncitos* (Little Lions) will battle for a medal this time.

Gilardi, right, with Ruiz. AKHILA EASWARAN

"We have six players from the previous World Cup. It's a new group – strong and unique. We have some players who are really skilful and powerful. We also have a few penalty corner specialists, and a solid goalkeeper," he said.

The team led by Tomas Ruiz had a good build-up to the mega event by clinching the Pan American Trophy with an all-win record.

"We are aware that the World Cup will be harder. We will have practice matches against India from Thursday (Nov. 20) and we will be ready," he said.

Two-time champion Argentina, placed in Group-C with New Zealand, Japan and China, is expected to progress to the quarterfinals smoothly.

Gilardi was, however, cautious. "We don't know too much about Japan and China though we have some videos about New Zealand," said the 2016 Rio Olympics gold medallist who had 174 senior caps (2007-18).

WILL HE?

Gill travels with team to Guwahati, but remains doubtful for Test

RITU RAJ KONWAR

India captain Shubman Gill travelled with the team to Guwahati for the second Test against South Africa starting on November 22. However, he remains a doubtful starter. "He will continue to be monitored by the BCCI medical team and a decision will be taken accordingly," said a statement from the board.

FIREWORKS

Conway and Santner exploits eclipse Hope's unbeaten century

AFP

Mitchell Santner's fireworks with the bat helped New Zealand beat West Indies by five wickets in the second ODI in Napier on Wednesday. The match was reduced to 34 overs. **The scores:** WI 247/9 in 34 overs (Hope 109 n.o. Smith 4/42) lost to NZ 248/5 in 33.3 overs (Conway 90, Rachin 56, Santner 34 n.o.). **Toss:** NZ. **PoM**: Hope.

REMARKABLE FEAT

Hope first batter to hit hundreds against 13 international teams

AP

Shai Hope became the first to hit centuries against 13 international teams — Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe — when he scored an unbeaten 109 in the Napier ODI against New Zealand on Wednesday.

ANOTHER FEATHER

Federer to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame in 2026

AP

Roger Federer will be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) in an induction celebration set for August 2026 in Newport, USA, the ITHF said on Wednesday. Federer won 20 Grand Slams, the first man to reach the benchmark, and clinched 103 career titles before retiring in 2022.

Wei knocks out Arjun; Indian challenge ends

The second seed falters in second tie-break game; misses chance to seal spot in the Candidates tournament; Sindarov sets up all-Uzbek semifinal against Yakubboev; Esipenko advances

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

Chinese-checker: Wei capitalised on Arjun's error to win the second tie-break game. FIDE

In the tie-breaks was broken India's heart on Wednesday.

Arjun Erigaisi, the host's last hope at the Chess World Cup, was knocked out in the quarterfinals at Resort Rio. The second seed was outwitted by China's Wei Yi.

Arjun was in a spot of bother in the first set of tie-breaker games, but fought back to get a draw, but in the second, he lost. Wei, the seventh seed, thus won the tie-break 1.5-0.5.

After the early exit of the No. 1 and 3 seeds D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun had very much been the man in focus here. His defeat is a big setback to him, and India: he needed to finish inside the top three to get a slot in the Candidates.

Wei will certainly be entertaining his hopes of travelling to Cyprus, where the Candidates will be played in March-April next year. Also on the same boat of expectations are Jovakhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan and Andrey Esipenko of Russia, but they had to wait longer to get their tickets for the semifinals. In the second set of tie-breakers, Sindarov beat Jose Martínez Alcantara of Mexico and Esipenko defeated Sam Shankland of USA 2-0.

The first game saw Wei, playing from the white side of a French Defence, getting the upper hand from early on, following a dubious pawn push from Arjun. The Chinese looked in control until he messed up with a couple of weak moves, back to back, in the middle game, allowing Black to equalise and the game was drawn in 66 moves.

In the second game, Arjun faced Petrov's Defence, and found himself struggling again before stabilising the position. Things were equal in the rook-and-bishop ending until White blundered on his 41st move. He took the rook to the wrong square, giving Wei the clear advantage, which the Chinese eventually managed to convert, checkmating Arjun in the end, on the 79th move.

"I had many chances in the first game, but I didn't find even one way to win," said Wei. "In the second game, I think Arjun played some risky moves in the ending and I realised I had some chances to win, too."

In the semifinals on Friday, Sindarov will take on Nodirbek Yakubboev in an all-Uzbek battle, while Wei will meet Esipenko.

The results: Quarterfinals (tie-break): Wei Yi (Chn) bt Arjun Erigaisi 1.5-0.5; Jovakhir Sindarov (Uzb) bt Jose Martínez Alcantara (Mex) 1-1, 1.5-0.5; Andrey Esipenko (Rus) bt Sam Shankland (USA) 1-1, 2-0.

Washington the latest No. 3 in the game of musical chairs

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

Calm and collected: The early signs of Washington batting at this crucial position are good, courtesy his sound technique. K.R. DEEPAK

Batting at No. 3 is one of the most crucial roles in Test cricket. The job description is expansive: a batter must be technically sound to face even the second ball of the match and versatile enough to push the game forward when the openers build a solid platform.

In the last three decades, India was fortunate to have two dependable batters who have owned that role. First, Rahul Dravid left a lasting legacy before Cheteshwar Pujara seamlessly took over.

However, in recent times, filling that spot has become a game of musical chairs. In the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata, Washington Sundar became the seventh and latest man to be entrusted with solving this puzzle ever since Gautam Gambhir became the coach.

The early signs are good. The tall left-hander may have made only 29 and 31 but he brought a sense of calm, courtesy his sound technical foundation. Despite India's 30-run loss, he was a bright spot, remaining largely untroubled on a spiteful surface with uneven bounce. Notably, he faced the most deliveries in the game (174).

His assurance, though, shouldn't surprise anyone, for he started as a top-order bat for Tamil Nadu before being used primarily as a bowling all-rounder for India. "He has a sound defence. When you trust it, you tend to play confidently. The way he played by getting to the pitch of the ball with the bat in front showed his confidence," explained M. Senthilnathan, Washington's long-time coach and mentor.

While the Eden Gardens fixture showcased his game against spin, the 26-year-old is equally adept at playing pace. In his debut Test in 2021 against Australia, he made vital contributions in the memorable win at the Gabba in Brisbane.

Earlier this year in England, walking in at No. 5 at Old Trafford in Manchester, Washington scored a match-saving maiden century on the final day.

In the fifth and final Test at The Oval, he blazed a quickfire half-century, shepherding the tail to set up a famous win and help level the series 2-2.

Now that Washington is auditioning for the No. 3 role, it remains to be seen if he gets a longer run than his predecessors Sai Sudharsan and Karun Nair.

Given the position's importance, it may be time to pause the music.

Playing at the No. 3 slot is a challenge, says Karthik

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

The No. 3 spot in the Indian Test team has seen a handful of occupants in recent times and Washington Sundar became the latest to do so, in the first Test against South Africa at Kolkata.

The left-hander, playing in that position for the first time in his career, made 29 and 31, acquitting himself rather well as the team lost the Test.

Former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik weighed in on Washington walking in at the crucial No. 3 position in the Kolkata Test, saying that playing in that slot is a challenge.

"Obviously, playing at No. 3 is a challenge. Most of the time, pure batters do it (play there).

"Washington Sundar is an all-rounder, he is someone who bowls a lot. He has the technique to bat at No. 3, but he has to work a lot on his batting.

Balancing act

"When he works a lot on his batting, bowling becomes tiring.

"Balancing both can be challenging... that is what I meant," he said, at an event at VS Hospitals here on Wednesday where he launched a robotic-assisted solution for knee replacement.

India to open U-19 WC campaign against USA

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India will take on USA in the 2026 Men's U-19 World Cup opener with the tournament to be staged in Zimbabwe and Namibia from January 15 to February 6.

The competition will feature 16 teams divided into groups of four in the first stage, with 41 matches to be played over 23 days.

India is in Group A alongside USA, Bangladesh and New Zealand. Group B will have Zimbabwe, Pakistan, England and Scotland, whereas Group C will have defending champion Australia, Ireland, Japan and Sri Lanka. Group D consists of Tanzania, the West Indies, Afghanistan and South Africa.

India's remaining group contests against Bangladesh and New Zealand will be on January 17 and 24 with all its matches to be played in Bulawayo.

The top three ranked sides from the first round will take part in the Super Six stage, with these teams forming two groups of six each.

SA-A rides on Pretorius, Moonsamy's tons to post consolation victory

SA-A IN INDIA

Sahil Mathur
RAJKOT

Big stand: Moonsamy and Pretorius notched up a massive 241-run opening partnership. VIJAY SONEJI

South Africa-A walked off with a convincing 73-run win in the third and final one-day match, its batting firepower and improved bowling finally aligning to defeat India-A at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here on Wednesday.

The visitors rode on a 241-run opening partnership between centurions Lhuan-dre Pretorius and Rivaldo Moonsamy before their bowlers applied the squeeze, bowling out the hosts for 252 to avoid a clean sweep. The series ended 2-1 in India-A's favour.

Chasing 326, India-A began positively with Ruturaj Gaikwad timing the ball well, but wickets at regular intervals derailed the pursuit.

Abhishek Sharma fell to Tshepo Moreki, and Tilak Varma struggled for rhythm before losing his stumps for 11. Ruturaj's start ended when he was beaten by Bjorn Fortuin, leaving India-A at 57 for three. Riyan Parag counter-attacked but fell soon.

Ishan Kishan and Ayush Badoni added 88 runs – the only substantial stand of the innings. Kishan reached a fifty with a crisp cut, while Badoni produced a composed half-century. But Nqaba Peter dismissed Kishan, triggering a slide.

Badoni top-edged for 66, Harshit Rana departed first ball, and Fortuin cleaned up Nishant Sindhu as India-A collapsed from 160 for four.

South Africa-A's bowlers, led by Peter's four for 48 and supported by Moreki and Fortuin, maintained pressure through the middle overs. Lower-order attempts from Manav Suthar and Prasidh Krishna were brief as the chase fizzled out.

Earlier, Pretorius and Moonsamy produced a strong top-order display. Pretorius dominated from the start, racing to a 39-ball half-century, while Moonsamy anchored before accelerating.

India-A's new-ball pair struggled for consistency, and Rana's no-ball reprieve proved costly.

Pretorius reached his hundred in 98 balls and launched three straight sixes off Badoni, while Moonsamy completed a 123-ball ton. Prasidh finally removed both in the 38th over, but Delano Potgieter's 15-ball 30 lifted South-A to a formidable total.

The scores: South Africa-A 325/6 in 50 overs (Lhuan-dre Pretorius 123, Rivaldo Moonsamy 107) bt India-A 252 in 49.1 overs (Ishan Kishan 53, Ayush Badoni 66, Nqaba Peter 4/48).
Toss: India-A.
PoM: Pretorius; **PoS:** Ruturaj.

Jaismine, Nikhat ease past their semifinal opponents

BOXING

Y. B. Sarangi
GREATER NOIDA

Experienced hand: Nikhat, right, had a tough start against Gulsevar executed her combinations well to score points. PTI

World champion Jaismine Lamboria and former World champion Nikhat Zareen shrugged off the challenge of beginning their campaign late as they won their respective semifinal bouts in the World Boxing Cup Finals at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

Jaismine (57kg) defeated former Asian youth gold medallist Ulzhan Sarsenbek 5-0, while Nikhat (51kg) beat 2022 World youth champion Gulsevar Ganieva 5-0.

Six more Indians moved into title bouts. Altogether, 15 home boxers will be seen in action in the finals on Thursday.

Confident

A tall southpaw, Jaismine quickly assessed her strong Kazakh opponent, who closed the gap to attack, and employed her long range game with confidence. With her fluent movement around the ring, Jaismine controlled the bout and stole points effortlessly.

Jaismine will meet Taiwan's Paris Olympics bronze medallist Wu Shih Yi in the final.

Nikhat had a tough start against Uzbekistan's Gulsevar but managed a 4-1 verdict in the opening round.

Lot of clinching

The experienced Indian, who executed her combinations to score points, convinced all five judges amid trading of punches and a lot of clinching in the last two rounds.

"My (first) bout has come towards the end. It has never happened.

"It wasn't as per expectations, but I am happy to medal (in nearly two years)," said Nikhat, who will face Taiwan's Guo Yi Xuan.

Select results:
Semifinals: Men: 50kg: Jadumani Singh bt Izaz Omer (Aus) 5-0; **55kg:** Pawan Bartwal bt Ellis Trowbridge (Eng) 5-0. **60kg:** Sachin Siwach bt Dilshod Abdumurodov (Uzb) 5-0. **70kg:** Hitesh Gulia bt Mukhammad Azizbek Ismoliov (Uzb) 5-0; **75kg:** Michal Jarlinski (Pol) bt Sumit Kundu 4-1. **85kg:** Jasurbek Yuldoshev (Uzb) bt Jugnoo Ahlawat 5-0. **Women: 51kg:** Nikhat Zareen bt Gulsevar Ganieva (Uzb) 5-0; **57kg:** Jaismine Lamboria bt Ulzhan Sarsenbek (Kaz) 5-0; **65kg:** Chen Nien Chin (Tpe) bt Neeraj Phogat 3-2.

INBRIEF

Curacao is smallest nation by population to qualify for WC

Curacao salvaged a 0-0 draw with Jamaica to become the smallest nation by population to qualify for a World Cup and will be joined by CONCACAF sides Panama and Haiti which also booked their spots. Curacao finished as the only undefeated nation in the tournament and finished atop of Group B with 12 points to advance. It has a population of 156,115 persons as of last January.

Abhinav and Pranjali win air pistol mixed gold

Abhinav Deshwal and Pranjali Prashant Dhumal won 10m air pistol mixed gold, while Kushagra Singh Rajawat claimed bronze in the 50m rifle prone competition at the 25th Deaflympics in Tokyo on Wednesday. Abhinav and Pranjali notched up a dominating 16-6 win over Ya-Ju Kao and Ming-Jui Hsu of Taiwan to finish on top. Kushagra finished third with a score of 224.3 in the event won by Ukraine's Dmytro Petrenko with a Deaf World Record score of 251.0.

Australian Open badminton: five Indians in second round

Five Indians, including Lakshya Sen and H.S. Prannoy, reached the men's singles second round at the $4,75,000 Australian Open Super 500 badminton in Sydney on Wednesday.

The results (first round): Men: Lakshya Sen bt Su Li Yang 21-17, 21-13; H.S. Prannoy bt Yohanes Saut Marcellyno 6-21, 21-12, 21-17; Ayush Shetty bt Sam Yuan 21-11, 21-15; Tharun Mannepalli bt Magnus Johannesen 21-13, 17-21, 21-19; Kidambi Srikanth bt Lee Chia Hao 21-19, 19-21, 21-15; Kenta Nishimoto bt Kiran George 21-11, 22-24, 17-21. **Mixed doubles:** Nyl Yakura & Crystal Lai bt Mohit Jaglan & Lakshita Jaglan 21-12, 21-16.

James becomes first player to take part in 23 NBA seasons

LeBron James became the first player to play in 23 NBA seasons when he took the court for Los Angeles Lakers against Utah Jazz on Tuesday. The 40-year-old four-time champion notched up 11 points as he left behind Vince Carter, who played in 22 seasons in a career that concluded in 2020.

Contributing with the bat helped: Shikhar

Left-arm spinner happy to follow up half-century with a five-wicket haul and help Karnataka post a victory; says it wasn't an easy wicket to play on

Spinning a web: Shikhar came to the fore with a five-wicket haul. KIRAN BAKALE

RANJI TROPHY

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
HUBBALLI

On the eve of Karnataka's fifth-round Ranji Trophy clash against Chandigarh, captain Mayank Agarwal had insisted that left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty was bowling far better than his numbers suggested.

"He might not have got (many) wickets, but he's bowled really well," Mayank had said.

Playing only his third First Class match, Shikhar repaid his captain's faith with an impressive all-round display in Karnataka's innings victory.

He struck a valuable 59 to help the side surge past 500 (547 for eight declared) and followed it up with returns of two for 43 and five for 61.

His first fifty, his maiden five-for, and an innings win - all aligning like constellations on a clear night!

"I don't think I've still processed it! Like, I've gotten a Ranji Trophy five-wicket haul! And yes, I have no words!" he gushed in his first media interaction after his breakthrough performance.

He said that contributing with the bat boosted his confidence with the ball.

"It wasn't an easy wicket to bat on. Contributing with the bat helped me with my confidence a lot when I was bowling.

"And I knew what lengths and pace to bowl. I was getting hit, but I made sure that I didn't move away from my plans, he said.

He'd formed those plans from his batting experience. His innings, he explained, offered him cues for his bowling.

"If I had realised one thing while batting, it is that when the bowler bowled slower to you, you could adjust and play. It felt easier to bat. But when they bowled quicker, there was something happening, and I wasn't able to play comfortably.

"I kept that in mind and experimented with it when I was bowling - to not bowl too many slower balls, and to focus mainly on bowling high-pace deliveries.

" I was bowling that odd slower ball in between, so that they don't get used to my pace," he said.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Aneeshwar is Karnataka's hero

Aneeshwar Gautam (100) helped Karnataka defeat Hyderabad in the BCCI men's under-23 State 'A' trophy at Jaipur.

The scores:

Hyderabad 226 in 47.3 overs (Aman Rao 39, Vignesh Reddy 53, Sai Yadav 41, Manvanth Kumar 4/59) lost to Karnataka 227/6 in 42.5 overs (Sanjay Ashwin 51, Aneeshwar Gautam 100, K.P. Karthikeya 42).

Narrow win for Karnataka over Uttarakhand

Karnataka edged Uttarakhand by three wickets in a Cooch Behar Trophy under-19 match at the Alur (1) grounds, Bengaluru, on Wednesday.

The scores:

Uttarakhand 202 and 191 lost to Karnataka 235 and 162/7 in 45.2 overs (Nitish Arya 33, Priyanshu Singh 3/52).

RANJI SCORES — ROUND 5 (FOURTH AND FINAL DAY)

Elite: Group A: Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 328 & 158 in 52.2 overs (Sharandeep Singh 65, Saurabh Kumar 5/47) lost to Andhra 567/6 decl.
Points: Andhra 7(22), Jharkhand 0(18).
Bhubaneswar: Odisha 275 & 350/5 decl. bt Nagaland 161 & 165 in 83 overs (Dega Nischal 52, Govinda Poddar 5/69).
Odisha 6(7), Nagaland 0(1).
Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu 455 & 103/2 in 21 overs (B. Sachin 59, N. Jagadeesan 44) drew with Uttar Pradesh 460 in 145.1 overs (Abhishek Goswami 79, Aryan Juyal 43, Rinku Singh 176, Shivam Mavi 54, P. Vidyuth 4/73).
UP 3(17), TN 1(5).
Nagpur: Vidarbha 169 & 272 bt Baroda 166 & 131 in 50.4 overs (Darshan Nalkande 5/12).
Vidarbha 6(25), Baroda 0(9).
Group B: Rajkot: Saurashtra 585/7 decl. bt Goa 358 & 180 in 54.5 overs (Parth Bhut 7/56).
Saurashtra 7(13), Goa 0(11).
Indore: Kerala 281 & 314/5 decl. in 84 overs (Sachin Baby 122 n.o., B. Aparajith 105 retd. hurt) drew with Madhya Pradesh 192 & 159/8 in 69 overs (Sreehari Nair 4/51).
Kerala 3(8), MP 1(16).
Group C: Kalyani: Assam 200 & 282/9 in 120.4 overs (Denish Das 73, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 67, Sibsankar Roy 52, Shahbaz Ahmed 4/57) drew with Bengal 442. **Bengal 3(23), Assam 1(4).**
Dehradun: Gujarat 324/8 decl. & 291/5 decl. bt Uttarakhand 272 & 197 in 68.4 overs (Aarav Mahajan 60, Vishal Jayswal 4/72).
Gujarat 6(15), Uttarakhand 0(16).
Lahli: Services 205 & 283/7 decl. bt Haryana 111 & 166 in 43.4 overs (Yashvardhan Dalal 49, Pulkit Narang 5/66).
Services 6(19), Haryana 0(18).
Group D: Mumbai: Mumbai 630/5 decl. bt Pondicherry 132 & 276 in 53.3 overs (Neyan Shyam Kangayan 42, Siddhant Addhatrao 54, Aman Khan 86).
Mumbai 7(24), Pondicherry 0(5).
Nadaun: Chhattisgarh 585/6 decl. & 15/0 in five overs drew with Himachal Pradesh 425 in 141 overs (Ankit Kalsi 204, Nikhil Gangta 77, Ravi Kiran 6/90).
Chhattisgarh 3(11), HP 1(4).
Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir 170 & 422 bt Hyderabad 121 & 190 in 57.5 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 47, Abid Mushtaq 7/68).
J&K 6(20), Hyderabad 0(13).
Rajsamand: Rajasthan 570/7 decl. drew with Delhi 296 & 316/7 in 87 overs (Yash Dhull 189, Ayush Doseja 64).
Rajasthan 3(13), Delhi 1(8).
Plate: Patna: Mizoram 509 & 206/6 decl. in 57.5 overs (Armaan Jaffer 119 n.o., Joseph Lalthankhuma 101) lost to Bihar 522 & 251/3 in 27.4 overs (Mangal Mahrour 67, Sakibul Gani 66, Ayush Loharuka 54 n.o., Bipin Saurabh 47).
Bihar 6(16), Mizoram 0(9).
Surat: Meghalaya 430 & 239/4 decl. in 64.3 overs (Kishan Lyngdoh 76, Rahul Dalal 103 n.o.) drew with Manipur 342 & 72/1 in 25.5 overs (Ronald Longjam 51 n.o.).
Meghalaya 3(15), Manipur 1(18).

Parth Bhut (Saurashtra, 7/56). FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs Ireland: 2nd Test, day 2, FanCode, 9 a.m.

Bashir in England squad for Perth Test

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

England named off-spinner Shoaib Bashir in a 12-man squad on Wednesday alongside four frontline pace bowlers, keeping its options open for the first Test against Australia in Perth. There was no room for speedster Josh Tongue with Brydon Carse preferred, while Ollie Pope kept his place at number three ahead of Jacob Bethell.

Veteran Mark Wood unleashed a fiery spell in the nets on Tuesday after an injury scare last week to prove his fitness.

But selectors are likely waiting until the last minute to make a call on whether he plays.

Not since a bowling line-up led by John Snow and Bob Willis helped England to a 1970-71 series win has it had such an array of genuine quicks in Australia.

The squad: Ben Stokes (Capt.) Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Mark Wood.

Bashir. AFP

Scotland ends 28-year wait; Spain and Austria also book berths

WC QUALIFYING

Agence France-Presse
GLASGOW

Scotland will play in the World Cup for the first time in 28 years after two injury-time goals sealed a dramatic 4-2 victory over Denmark on Tuesday, while Spain also booked its place at the 2026 finals.

Scotland got the win it needed to qualify from Group C in a thrilling match in Glasgow, thanks to brilliant late goals from Kieran Tierney and Kenny McLean.

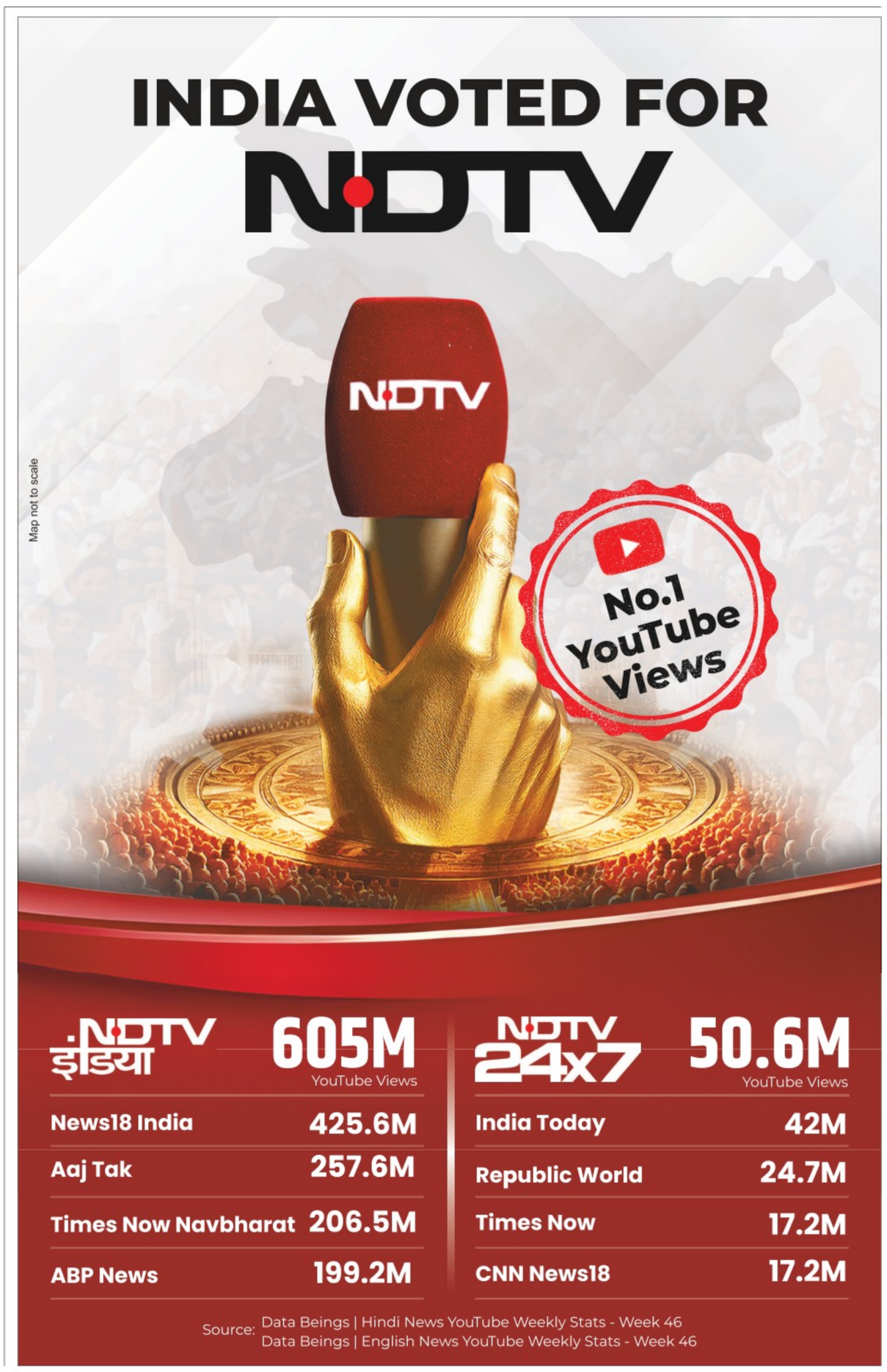
Elsewhere, European champion Spain, Austria, Belgium and Switzerland also booked tickets to next year's tournament on the final night of European qualifying.

Michael Gregoritsch's 78th-minute goal sent Ralf Rangnick's Austria to its first World Cup since 1998 in a 1-1 draw with Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Spain only needed to avoid defeat by seven goals against Turkey to confirm a place at a 13th successive World Cup and goals from Dani Olmo and Mikel Oyarzabal gave it a 2-2 draw in Seville in Group E.

Belgium booked its place in the finals by thumping Liechtenstein 7-0.

Switzerland extended its run of consecutive World Cup appearances to six with a 1-1 draw against Kosovo in Pristina.

Opening salvo: McTominay uncorks an overhead kick to start proceedings for Scotland. AP

The results: Group B: Kosovo 1 (Muslija 74) drew with Switzerland 1 (Vargas 47).
Sweden 1 (Lundgren 87) drew with Slovenia 1 (Elsnik 64).
Group C: Belarus 0 drew with Greece 0; Scotland 4 (McTominay 3, Shankland 78, Tierney 90+3, McLean 90+8) bt Denmark 2 (Hojlund 57-pen, Dorgu 82).
Group E: Bulgaria 2 (Rusev 10, Krastev 24) bt Georgia 1 (Lochoshvili 88).
Spain 2 (Olmo 4, Oyarzabal 62) drew with Turkey 2 (Gul 42, Ozcan 54).
Group H: Austria 1 (Gregoritsch 77) drew with Bosnia and Hercegovina 1 (Tabakovic 12); Romania 7 (Rossi 13-og, Baiaram 29, Man 42, Valentini 57-og, Hagi 76, Ratiu 82, Munteanu 86-pen) bt San Marino 1 (Giacopetti 2).
Group I: Belgium 7 (Vanaken 3, Doku 34, 41, Mechele 52, Saelemaekers 55, De Ketelaere 57, 59) bt Liechtenstein 0.
Wales 7 (Wilson 18-pen, 75, 81-pen, Brooks 21, Johnson 37, James 57, Broadhead 88) bt North Macedonia 1 (Miovski 23).